Hafa Adai!

Manpower agency allegedly failed to pay over $160K in taxes. PAGE 2

Ayuyu elected CPA board chair. PAGE 2

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Supreme Court finds Torres' appeal moot

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Ron Snyder's Neptune allowed him to complete a threepeat in the 2023 Green Flash Carve costume contest last Saturday.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

» 'Costume legend' Snyder retires after 3-peat

Kelly Wren, an Emergency Room physician at the Commonwealth Health Center, showed off her surgical precision in her Miss Piggy masterpiece to win the 2023 Green Flash Carve last Saturday at the Laulau Dive Point in Lau Lau Bay.

Nifty with a knife, Wren started out fashioning a local pumpkin into the likeness of The Muppets' character Miss Piggy. She then used bananas as the ears of the headstrong Muppet then capped it off with a potato as a honker—all while underwater and in full scuba gear.

"I thought the snout and ears would make it look like

See CARVING on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kelly Wren's winning Miss Piggy carve in the 2023 Green Flash Carve underwater pumpkin carving contest.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Torres

The CNMI Supreme Court dismissed yesterday as moot the appeal filed by former governor Ralph DLG Torres against the Superior Court's previous order in favor of the 22nd House Standing Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations.

See TORRES on Page 4

DPS hunts for man charged with possession of narcotics, firearm

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is on the hunt for a man who was previously detained and released and has since been charged with illegal possession of narcotics and unlawful transportation of firearms.

A DPS news release states that a warrant is out for the

See DPS on Page 4

DPS

A police mug shot of Kelvin C. Sanchez.

'Some want CCC to die a natural death'

» CCC chairman DeLeon Guerrero says request to use unspent $250K not a request for lunch, but for survival

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission board member Ramon M. Dela Cruz feels the CCC seems to have some enemies within the administration and the Legislature who want the commission to "die a natural death" and that saddens him.

"We should be working together Mr. chairman," said Dela Cruz during the board's meeting last Thursday, reiterating that the CCC and some people within the Executive

See CCC on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Bank of Guam has received national recognition by the American Bankers Association Foundation with a Community Commitment Award.
PAGE 11

NATION
Shootings across the U.S. over the weekend before Halloween have left at least 11 people dead and more than 70 injured, authorities said.
PAGE 12

WORLD
Israeli ground forces pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing in tanks and other armored vehicles on the territory's main city.
PAGE 13

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Local

Manpower agency allegedly failed to pay over $160K in taxes

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation has filed a notice of tax lien with the U.S. District Court for the NMI against a manpower agency for allegedly not paying over $160,000 in taxes.

The CNMI Department of Finance filed a notice of tax lien yesterday against VR Company, LLC, which does business as CNMI Manpower Services.

According to the notice for tax lien, the alleged nonpayment occurred from Dec. 31, 2014, until Feb. 28, 2018.

Based on Department of Finance's assessment, CNMI Manpower Services owes the CNMI $161,117.47 in taxes from 2014 to 2018.

"Notice is given that taxes (including interest and penalties) have been assessed against the [CNMI Manpower Services]. Demand for payment of this liability has been made, but it remains unpaid. Therefore, there is a lien in favor of the [CNMI] on all property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer for the amount of these filed Clerk District Court taxes and any additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," states the notice.

Back in 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation seized records, documents, and other communications from many private companies that date as far back as September 2013, when the CNMI government was still in the process of selecting who its sole casino licensee would be. VR Company, LLC was one of companies involved in the FBI's search.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the FBI search warrants looked for bank account information, account statements, wire transfer requests, financial statements, credit card account information, invoices, cancelled checks, credit reports, loan records, debt obligations, fee schedules, correspondence, applications, telephone records, or certificates of incorporation dated on or after Sept. 1, 2013, relating to transfers of funds or items greater than $1,000 from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, brothers Vincent, Victorino, and Joaquin Torres, Alfred Chi-Yam Yue, Ron Li Anderson, Legend Saipan (CNMI) LLC, Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, Torres Brothers LLC, or VR Company LLC; billing documents relating to the Torres brothers and companies; authorized withdrawals made by Ron Li Anderson from bank accounts which only he had signatory authority; all correspondence relating to tax matters between IPI or any of its affiliates and the CNMI government; all documents, records, and properties related to real estate transactions in the CNMI involving IPI or its affiliates; and many more, all dated on or before Sept. 1, 2013.

The search warrants included the Governor's Office, the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC; Legend Realty Saipan; the Torres Brothers' law office, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' home, and vehicle.

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New suit filed against Torres

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed a new lawsuit against former governor Ralph DLG Torres in Superior Court and is once again charging him with contempt.

Assistant attorney general James Robert Kingman filed the new suit, which charges Torres anew with contempt over his failure to comply with a legislative subpoena last December 2021.

Clerk of court Patrick Diaz issued last Friday a penal summons for Torres, stating he must appear before a judge on Dec. 18, 2023, at 9am. If he fails to appear, Torres faces possible arrest.

Aside from contempt, Kingman also charges Torres with misconduct in public office for failing to appear in compliance with the legislative subpoena.

According to Kingman, failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena is in violation of the Commonwealth Code; if found guilty, Torres could be fined by not more than $1,000 or imprisoned by not more than one year, or both.

This is not the first time the Office of the Attorney General filed a contempt suit against Torres, bit that initial charge was dismissed in August 2022. Judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino's order granted, in part, and denied, in part, Torres' motion for the withdrawal or disqualification of the OAG as a prosecutor. It was in this order that the judge dismissed the contempt charge against Torres.

Specifically, Tolentino found that chief solicitor J. Robert Glass, the head prosecutor in the criminal case against Torres, may have been exposed to privileged and confidential information that prevents Glass from prosecuting Torres for contempt, therefore the charge was dismissed.

As for the motion to disqualify Glass from prosecuting Torres for the other 13 charges stated in the complaint, Tolentino found no conflict and denied the former governor's motion.

"…there is no conflict preventing…Glass from charging and prosecuting defendant for Counts I-XIII…," Tolentino said.

According to the order, the defense previously argued that Glass knew Torres, through his counsels, were making Open Government Act requests, a procedure being utilized in defendant's separate case.

Defendant further argued that Glass could have only known about defendant's other Open Government Act requests if he had information from the representation of defendant in the separate case and therefore the screen, a procedure done by Attorney General Edward Manibusan to ensure Glass was not exposed to privileged and confidential information on Torres' other civil cases, was ineffective.

Tolentino found that evidence previously presented in court indicated it was likely Glass was exposed to privileged information regarding non-appearance to a legislative subpoena as charged in Count 14 — Contempt.

Ayuyu elected CPA board chair

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has unanimously elected newly appointed member Jose Ayuyu as the board's chairman during a meeting yesterday.

All five board members, excluding Ayuyu, voted in favor of naming him the new board chair during an election held to replace former CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, whose term expired earlier this month.

After the election, Ayuyu, speaking to all CPA staff, encouraged them to work with him as he wants to leave the CPA better than when he entered.

In a later interview, Ayuyu said he looks forward to serving the CPA board as its chair.

"I really look forward to being the CPA chair. I will only be successful if everyone works together and cooperates with me. There are a lot of challenges ahead of us but I know there are solutions to these challenges, so I encourage everyone in CPA to work together, to work with me, and let's tackle these challenges together as a team. We will do the best we can," he said.

Ayuyu said his first act in office would be to get acquainted with CPA's financial issues and go from there.

"I'm not completely sure where the CPA stands financially, but that's my first act as chairman. I want to know where we are, and then work from there and tackle other issues one at a time," he said.

Following the board meeting, Ayuyu met with CPA's finance team to gain a better understanding of CPA's financial standing.

Ayuyu is currently the president and chief executive officer of McDonald's of Saipan and Guam.

He said he is semi-retired now as he is currently transitioning his businesses to his son, Joe Ayuyu Jr.

Ayuyu has other business interests in real estate rentals of apartments and commercial buildings.

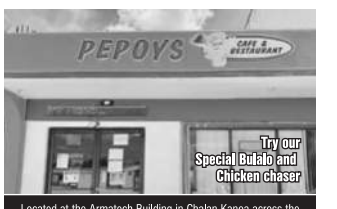
He said their company employs close to 500 employees—over a hundred on Saipan and over 400 in Guam.

Ayuyu has been in business for about 30 years, not counting his experience with Bank of Guam, Hakubutan, and other private companies.

Ayuyu is a professional with over 45 years of services in both the government and private sector, is an accomplished manager, and a business leader within the community.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority held a special board meeting yesterday to elect a chairperson. Jose Ayuyu was unanimously elected to serve as chair.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

HPO still moving forward with projects even with resignation of director and archaeologist

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Historic Preservation Office is still moving forward with its projects even if the HPO director and an archaeologist resigned around at the same time last September, according to acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Francisco M. Rabauliman.

Rabauliman

Rita Chong resigned as HPO director on Sept. 26, soon followed by HPO archaeologist Ben Guzman, who resigned at the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30.

"So the two most senior people at HPO resigned around the same time," said Rabauliman in an interview on Friday.

Rabauliman himself was appointed acting DCCA secretary when Mary Margaret Santos Sablan resigned last August. Rabauliman is currently a member of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of directors.

Rabauliman said he appointed Lufo Babauta as acting HPO director.

Rabauliman said with regards to the archeologist, they were fortunate in that there is an archaeologist, Jeremy Freeman, with the CNMI Infrastructure Recovery Program. He said Freeman's contract with IRP was expiring because his position's funding source, American Rescue Plan Act, was running out.

Rabauliman said they were asked if there was room for the archaeologist's lateral transfer to HPO.

"I thought it was a godsend. Then we didn't have much downtime with regards to additional technical staff," he said, adding that the paperworks to get Freeman on board are now being processed.

He said he does not know why Chong resigned while he believes Guzman was offered a job in Guam.

With Babauta serving as the acting HPO director and Guzman, through IRP, helping them out, Rabauliman said the HPO is still moving forward with many of its projects.

He said one of the projects is the renovation of historical buildings on Capital Hill.

Rabauliman said three main technical staff are supposed to be manning the HPO—a staff historian, archaeologist, and an anthropologist.

He said his understanding is that HPO has had an archaeologist that, for all intents and purposes, has done archaeological work as well as anthropological work.

"So it is my understanding that, with their training, they pretty much overlap," he said.

As for a staff historian, Rabauliman said, the position has been vacant for some time and that they are also looking at trying to recruit one.

"We're working closely with the National Park Services," he added.

FAC remains the same for November 2023

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains the same at $0.30712 per kWh for the month of November. Although there has been a slight decrease in the average fuel oil prices, the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, which is strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases. The second component is the CUC base rate, which has not increased since April 2014 and is used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any non-fuel-related expenses. ***(CUC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

10/02/2023
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming: Amount	Proposed Revised Project: Budget	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 759	CDBG	PY2021 CDBG Planning and Administrative Costs		$194,083.20	($155,999.51)	$38,083.69	$194,083.20
	CDBG	PY2020 Unobligated Funds available to commit			($1,491.27)		
	CDBG	PY2021 Unobligated Funds available to commit			($507.11)		
	CDBG	PY2022 Unobligated Funds available to commit			($5,824.51)		
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			**($163,822.40)**		
IDIS# 753	CDBG	Tinian Children's Park Improvement Project	Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan	$288,977.60	$163,822.40	$452,800.00	$288,977.60
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			**$163,822.40**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds from Planning and Administrative Cost to a project activity, which constitutes as a substantial amendment. Therefore, any comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before November 3, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

NORTHERN MARIANAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community and consider the following factors: humanities expertise, fiscal and fundraising expertise, geographical coverage, demographic diversity, and attendance at a post-secondary institution. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Dr. Bobby J.A. Cruz, Chair**, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

FOR UNDERGROUND POWER LINE SYSTEM ON SAIPAN

2 contractors submit draft A&E designs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two contractors have submitted draft proposals for the architectural and engineering design for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s underground power line system project from CUC's Power Plant in Lower Base to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in Garapan, according to acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje.

Terlaje

In her report during the CUC board meeting last week, Terlaje said the draft proposals for A&E design are now being reviewed and evaluated.

With respect to CUC's underground power service project on Tinian, she said Hofschneider Engineering was set to present the A&E design to CUC last week.

CUC has been pushing the underground power system project to ensure that Saipan and Tinian will have the capability to provide electricity for emergencies during typhoons.

That means that even during a destructive storm, Saipan and Tinian will continue to have power for CHCC, the Saipan airport, Garapan, the Tinian Health Center, and Tinian airport.

The $30-million underground power system is part of CUC's mitigation project in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation on Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

CARVING

From page 1

a pig for Miss Piggy but it turned out looking more like a cartoon Muppet. I am new to scuba and new to the island. I am so grateful for all the kindness I have received here. Such a neat contest. Such a special tradition they have created," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Wren received a Scubapro dive regulator set and a gift bag from Marpac for winning first place.

Sydney Madden's entry of a pumpkin manatee netted her second place and took home a pair of Scubapro dive fins and a gift bag from Marpac.

J.D. Herndon, the better half of last year's winner Emilie Kohler, settled for third place with his jellyfish creation and received a Scubapro mesh bag backpack and also a gift bag from Marpac.

Dr. Ron Snyder, meanwhile, made it a threepeat in the costume competition with a Neptune outfit that was 10 months in the making.

His Lord of the Seven Seas getup also came with a supporting cast, with his wife Kim dressing up as Medusa and their trusty dog Gilligan coming as the kraken.

To everyone's surprise, the Saipan International School headmaster announced that he will be retiring from the costume competition and then donated his shell-encrusted crown to the would-be 2024 successor.

"I am very proud and happy that I have won the costume contest for three years in a row. But all things must come to an end. So, I have laid down Poseidon's (Neptune's Greek name) crown and donated it to Green Flash Dive so that future costume contest winners may wear the crown during their reign," he said.

As for why he chose Neptune as his swan song in the Green Flash Dive Carve, Snyder said he felt the character would shiver the timbers of competitors.

"Last year, I went as the King, King of the Sea, Shellvis Presley. So, it only seemed fitting that I would kick it up a notch and go for the Lord of the Seven Seas. So, I started looking for inspiration and found some in Venice's Carnival. I started working on my costume in January. I collected shells, ordered gems, and began with the dive mask. I was very happy with the way it turned out so I decided to encrust a trident as well. That took a few months to complete and then I began working on the crown. My armor was leather over a tunic and I spray-painted it green and gold. The cape was a piece of unfished sequined material. I decided to leave it unhemmed so that it had a rough look to it. The body paint was difficult to find. I needed to find something that would last under the waves but I didn't want to be blue and green for a week. In the end, most of it has come off. But my beard is distinctly tinted."

As for conscripting his wife and pet dog into the action, he said it's all part of the Neptune persona.

"In the end, it was a blast to make and a great character to get into. I have to give my wife a lot of credit for going with me as Medusa and then putting our dog, Gilligan, in a kraken costume so that I could leave the water and yell, 'Release the Kraken' and have him swim to me."

A distant second in the costume contest was Austin Grant, who carved his pumpkin Sith style as he came dressed as Darth Vader.

For all their trouble, Snyder won 15 free tank fills and Grant got 10 free air fills.

Green Flash Dive owner Joey McDoulette said this year's event was the biggest so far in the five years it's been in existence.

"We had the biggest turnout for the event ever this year. With the number of participants and observers, there were 28 people in the water. Everyone had a great time making bubbles and carving. We had a combination of newcomers and veterans take home prizes this year. Our champ, Kelly Wren, is brand new on island and to the competition. When she isn't carving pumpkins, she is saving lives at the hospital. Second place, Sydney Madden, and third place, J.D, Herndon just happen to be big-brained biologists, which contributed to their ability to carve creative masterpieces. Sydney never competed before. J.D., on the other hand, is a veteran of four carve competitions. Ron Snyder has more experience winning the costume contest than most contestants have competing. Austin Grant competed for the first time with the goal of unseating the costume champ," he said.

As for Snyder hanging up his crown, McDoulette said they're sad to see him go. "We really enjoy Ron's devotion to his craft. He is a three-time winner in the costume contest. We are sad to see him retire from the contest because we know he has a lot more costume brilliance up his sleeve. I hold out hope that he is only doing a Brady retirement and that we'll see him back next year. Maybe he will take up costume coaching," he said.

DPS

From page 1

arrest of Kelvin Cabrera Sanchez, who faces multiple charges that include unlawful transportation of firearms, removal of the serial number from a firearm, no firearm permit, illegal possession of narcotics, and others.

Sanchez was previously detained at the Department of Corrections after DPS officers did a traffic stop on him last Oct. 24 and allegedly found methamphetamine and ammunition in his car.

According to the previous DPS report, police received a disturbance report at the Pak Pak beach park in San Antonio at about 11:33pm on Oct. 24,.

Police said a witness identified a white Toyota Corolla fleeing the beach at a high rate of speed heading north.

An off-duty police officer later saw the vehicle along Beach Road in Susupe heading north at high speed. Shortly after, officers traced the vehicle to a residence in San Jose Village.

As the officers were doing their investigation, they observed that the driver of the white Corolla, identified as Sanchez, was under the influence of alcohol. Police arrested him and charged him with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Sanchez was later found in possession of a glass pipe that contained a white residue. A field test was conducted on the residue, which yielded a presumptive positive result for methamphetamine.

The white Toyota Corolla was impounded and officers discovered plastic baggies with white crystal-like substance and glass pipes with white residue inside the car. Both items allegedly tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

Additionally, a black handgun with no serial number, and other ammunition were found inside the car.

CCC

From page 1

Branch and the Legislature all work for the same government, yet appear to be adversaries. He did not name names.

He said they have essentially been doing voluntary work for the CCC and have been using their own money for 10 months already.

Dela Cruz noted that they are trying to protect the money owed by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to the government and not just to the commission.

Dela Cruz made the comments after CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero disclosed that they still have not had any response from Gov. Arnold I. Palacios about possibly using an unspent $250,000 for its personnel operating funds.

"This is not a request for lunch. It's a request for survival," said DeLeon Guerrero, adding that they have no money to pay their office rent and phone.

The chairman said both the Rota and Tinian commissioners are spending their own money to come to Saipan to attend the board meetings.

"…It's like, how are we going to continue to do this when the money is there but the government is not willing to extend a helping hand," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero wrote Palacios last Sept. 9 to ask permission to use an unspent $250,000 in arbitration funds so the CCC could rehire its executive director and five other personnel to assist the commission for three months.

The previous administration had reserved $350,000 for the arbitration costs against IPI. Only $100,000 of that amount has been used. Of the remaining $250,000, DeLeon Guerrero wants to use $94,800 for salaries of the six positions, $81,200 as board compensation, $50,000 as office rental, and for other expenses.

At the board meeting last week, DeLeon Guerrero said he is thinking about the former employees that are waiting for them to resolve the issue with IPI and move on and get them back. He added that their landlord is also waiting for them to pay the office rent.

Commissioner Mariano Taitano later said he wants to discuss the issue in an executive session, which means a closed door meeting.

The meeting was held at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai.

TORRES

From page 1

Previously, Torres appealed the Superior Court's ruling that legislative immunity granted by the CNMI Constitution provided absolute protection to the House Standing Committee from lawsuits regarding legislative activity.

The House Standing Committee held Torres in contempt for failure to comply with a legislative subpoena.

However, the Supreme Court ruled on the appeal yesterday and dismissed Torres' claim altogether on the ground of being moot already since the 22nd Legislature no longer exists and Torres is no longer the governor.

The Supreme Court dismissed Torres' appeal without deciding the merits of the Superior Court decision.

"The court dismisses the case on mootness grounds, finding that the central issues in the appeal no longer presented an actual controversy. In January 2023, both the House Standing Committee of the 22nd Legislature—the appellee—adjourned sine die, and former governor Torres—one of the appellants, in his official capacity—left office. The [high] court held that it has the discretion to decline review of an appeal when the adversarial parties no longer exist and have left office," said the Supreme Court.

"Our conclusion that this appeal is moot does not approve or disapprove of the decision by the Superior Court to dismiss the suit below under Rule 12(b)(6)," the court added.

On Dec. 4, 2021, the House Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations of the 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature served Torres with a subpoena to compel him to appear during an investigation into the administration's grant program.

The subpoena "commanded" Torres to appear before the committee during a scheduled committee proceeding to testify on "government expenditures and related matters" and stated that failure to appear may subject Torres to contempt pursuant to Commonwealth law.

Torres did not appear and the committee voted to hold him in contempt.

Subsequently, Torres sued the committee in Superior Court, seeking a declaration that the subpoena violated Commonwealth law and that its enforcement would violate the NMI Constitution.

The committee filed a motion to dismiss, arguing that the legislative immunity provided by the CNMI Constitution should operate as an absolute bar to the former governor's lawsuit.

The Superior Court agreed with the committee and dismissed the case with prejudice.

COTA rebrands public transportation services

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority under the Office of the Governor has a fresh new look and a new name for its public transportation services.

As special assistant for Public Transportation, Alfreda Camacho Maratita, introduces the community to Transit CNMI. While the look and name are new, Transit CNMI delivers on COTA's mission to provide the community with a dependable, reliable, safe, and cost-effective public transit system in order to reduce energy consumption, strengthen cultural values, and contribute economic development for the residents of the Commonwealth.

COTA is dedicated to breathing new life into the CNMI's transportation services, ensuring a rejuvenated image that welcomes all community members to utilize a convenient island-wide transportation system for their daily commutes. By focusing on providing accessible, sustainable, and innovative public transportation options, Transit CNMI aims to generate excitement and positive attention within the community.

Acting governor David M. Apatang says the renewed focus on public transportation is part of the administration's long-term plan to revitalize the economy by empowering residents to affordably access employment opportunities.

"I commend the efforts of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority in the introduction of Transit CNMI. This rebranding initiative signifies our commitment to progressive and accessible public transportation," Apatang said. "By embracing innovation and community engagement, Transit CNMI embodies our shared vision for a more connected, eco-conscious CNMI. I encourage our residents to actively participate in this transformative journey, making use of the enhanced services that Transit CNMI will bring to our islands."

Camacho Maratita says the Transit CNMI introduction is the first step in the comprehensive rebranding and community outreach process for the CNMI's public transportation program.

"We are thrilled to unveil Transit CNMI! Our upcoming initiatives, including new bus routes and revamped social media platforms, will redefine public transportation in the Commonwealth" Camacho Maratita said. "We invite the community to join us on this exciting journey as we enhance accessibility and sustainability in our transportation services."

In the weeks ahead, Transit CNMI will unveil a series of exciting initiatives, including new bus routes designed to serve the community's evolving needs. Additionally, Transit CNMI will reinvent COTA's social media platforms to enhance communication and engagement with passengers. These upcoming changes represent Transit CNMI's commitment to continuous improvement and ensuring that public transportation remains a vital and accessible resource for all. ***(PR)***

Join us for a Day of Unity: A community celebration

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to a close, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence invites everyone in the CNMI community to attend and participate in the coalition's signature Day of Unity on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, from 11am to 4pm at the CPA Airport Field,

This event promises a day filled with cultural performances, interactive booths from partner agencies, activities and games for kids, delicious food, and the opportunity to grab a complimentary 2023 DVAM T-shirt (while supplies last).

Join us for a heartwarming Day of Unity, a celebration that promotes awareness of the importance of supporting all survivors and ending victim-blaming. This event is a powerful platform for our community to come together and stand in solidarity with victims and survivors of domestic violence. In addition to our event highlights, there will be exciting raffle prizes and incentives. Attendees can take part in raffle draws and engaging activities that not only entertain but also educate, offering a chance to win great prizes while contributing to the cause of promoting unity and raising awareness in our community.

Don't miss this opportunity to join us for a day of cultural enrichment, fun, and unity. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to the CPA Airport Field on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, from 11am to 4pm. Admission is free, and the entire community is encouraged to be a part of this memorable event.

Moreover, be sure to follow NMCADSV's social media platforms @EndViolenceNMI for the latest updates.

For further information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or via email at info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(PR)***

Power interruption in As Matuis today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption in As Matuis today, Nov. 1, 2023, as CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance.

CUC

Map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power interruption today in As Matus.

The power service interruption will be from 9am to 1pm in As Matuis (Bayineta Drive). ***(see attached map)***

No water wells, wastewater facility, or traffic light will be affected.

CUC's scheduled power service interruption is being conducted to allow its power division staff to replace two rotted primary power poles.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to our customers.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (670-236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page. ***(CUC)***

Regenerative Agriculture
WORKSHOP SERIES
Learn how to grow your own food!
Saturday Nov. 04
Saipan
Family Food Forest & Commercial Agroforestry Workshop - NMC Campus, Room K-1, 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Saturday Nov. 11
Saipan
Installation - CREES As Perdido Research Station , 6:30am - 2:30pm
Wednesday Nov. 08
Rota
Family Food Forest & Commercial Agroforestry Workshop - NMC Campus, Rota 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Thursday Nov. 09
Rota
Hands-On/ Installation
Mr. Ambrosio's (Ambi) plot Gampapa, 6:30am - 2:30pm
(Map will be provided in Day 1 workshop)
Monday Nov. 13
Tinian
Family Food Forest & Silvopasture/Commercial Agroforestry Workshop
NMC Campus, Tinian 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Tuesday Nov. 14
Tinian
Installation
CREES San Jose Research Station, 6:30am - 2:30pm
For more information about the Regenerative Ag Workshop, please contact Jesse Deleon Guerrero at (670)237-6876 or email jesse.dlguerrero@marianas.edu
TO REGISTER please scan THIS QR CODE!
or visit bit.ly/AGWS23
Northern Marianas College CREES is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Northern Marianas College CREES is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. For more information or to request disability accommodation contact Margaret Kintol at margaret.kintol@marianas.edu
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981
CREES

Public hearing on Rota for solid waste management plan

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development, on behalf of the Interisland Solid Waste Management Task Force, invites you to a public hearing on Nov. 9, 2023, from 1pm to 2pm at the Rota Mayor's Office to share your thoughts, voice your concerns, and learn more about the CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

To view the latest draft of the CISWMP, give your thoughts on the plan, and more, visit https://opd.gov.mp/ciswmp.html.

The CNMI CISWMP charts a sustainable path forward for the CNMI's solid waste, spanning the development, operations, and maintenance of compliant landfilling, recycling, and composting facilities for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. It includes supporting activities such as education and outreach, conservation, and more.

"Together, we can preserve our Commonwealth's beauty and precious resources for future generations through effective, sustainable solid waste management. Get involved and be part of the CISWMP development process," states an OPD news release.

If you have any questions about this upcoming outreach event or the CISWMP or wish to be added to a mailing list to receive solid waste management planning updates, call OPD at (670) 233-2673 or send an email to joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp.

This public hearing will be a hybrid event that will be facilitated in-person and online. If you wish to attend virtually, send an email to joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp prior to the public hearing date to receive a meeting link. ***(PR)***

KHS JROTC Color Guard takes part in tribute at AMP

A heartfelt commemoration of civilians who lost their lives in the Battle of Saipan during World War II was held last Friday during the In Memoriam ceremony at the American Memorial Park's Marianas Memorial Courtyard.

The laying of wreath ceremony saw a touching tribute presented by the Kagman High School JROTC Color Guard, which performed the presenting and retiring the colors with precision.

The Kagman High School Color Guard's execution of their duties, coupled with their ushering assistance for VIPs, added an extra layer of honor and solemnity to the event.

The event brought together important figures such as Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, the 17th Saipan and Northern Marianas Islands Municipal Council, the Christian Mothers, and the local community.

The Kagman High JROTC's professional display of honor and respect made the event a major success.

This annual event was in cooperation with American Memorial Park, an institution dedicated to honoring those who perished on Saipan in the Battle of Saipan during World War II. ***(PR)***

KHS

The Kagman High School JROTC Color Guard flanks Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang as they lay a wreath during the In Memoriam ceremony last Friday at the American Memorial Park's Marianas Memorial Courtyard.

KHS

The Kagman High School JROTC Color Guard presented and retired the colors during the In Memoriam ceremony last Friday at the American Memorial Park's Marianas Memorial Courtyard.

MANGO workshop teaches how to create a nonprofit

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, or MANGO, is hosting a free workshop on Nov. 7, 2023, on How to Start a Nonprofit Organization in the CNMI. Seating is limited for the workshop, which will be from 1pm to 5pm at the MANGO Resource Room.

The Nonprofit Toolkit training is designed to provide an understanding of the basic activities that need to be accomplished to establish a nonprofit organization. The curriculum includes information on how to incorporate as a nonprofit organization, organizational documents to be developed, and securing federal recognition as a charitable organization 501©(3) status. It also introduces the roles and responsibilities of the board of directors, strategic planning, managing the organization, and the steps required to develop a community based project.

The last day to register is on Nov. 6, 2023, at 12pm or until all seats are filled.

Contact Shawna Babauta at 670-233-6200 between 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. You can also email info@mangocnmi.org for more information. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):
1. Appointment of Committee Chairs
2. Executive Director Position
3. Reorganization of the Board: Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

JOSE C. AYUYU
Chairman, Board of Directors

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400002

SUBMISSION DATE: November 27, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Project Management Services for Route 302 (Naftan Road) Improvement."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after October 25, 2023 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on November 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on November 17, 2023 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2024

Opening date: October 30, 2023 Closing date: November 17, 2023

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location:	**PORT OF SAIPAN**	
Position(s):	(1) Secretary II	PL 9/1 to 9/12 ($10.73/hr to $19.35/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial	PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr to $12.42/hr)
	(1) General Maintenance	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
	(4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, November 17, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

WENDI PRATER
Acting Executive Director

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct:	] FCD CIVIL] ACTION NO.] 23-0425]
Li, Wenbing and Li, Yuxiang Petitioner(s)	] **NOTICE OF**] **HEARING**]]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ _____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

USDA NIFA awards NMC $197K grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded the Northern Marianas College's Natural Resource Management program $197,000 to build student and professional capacity in agricultural and natural resource management through upcoming Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing coursework at NMC.

By developing GIS and Remote Sensing courses, and making these courses available to both enrolled students and the public through certificate courses, the capacity of the existing Natural Resource Management workforce will be strengthened and students will be equipped with the technical skills demanded by current industry standards.

NMC

Northern Marianas College's Natural Resource Management program coordinator Kelsey McClellan attends to one of her students during a class.

"This grant will develop local capacity in the fields of agriculture and natural resource management," said NMC NRM program coordinator Kelsey McClellan. "We will be able to strengthen the NRM program and support workforce development for our students."

The case studies for the curriculum will be largely Marianas-focused, and the deliverables from these courses will include maps, graphs, and Story Maps —all powerful tools that can help link the community to the research, create dynamic data, and help researchers further untangle and understand the whole picture of the research question being asked.

"There has been a stated need throughout the community for these courses to be offered at NMC, and we are thrilled that USDA NIFA RIIA recognizes the importance and relevance of supporting these programs at the College," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said. "The integration of GIS and Remote Sensing into the NRM curriculum will enhance the competitiveness of NMC graduates in the local job market and will help contribute to the long-term economic growth and sustainability of the CNMI."

GIS is a system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data with software that ties a static data point to a physical location by utilizing latitude and longitude coordinates. By mapping these data collections students and researchers are able to better understand trends, spatial patterns, and distribution of the data.

The remote sensing coursework specifically deals with data that are collected remotely. Examples of remote sensing data include, but are not limited to satellite, aircraft, and drone imagery. The remote sensing coursework will provide students with hands-on experience in image acquisition, processing methods, and analysis. The students will be required to take the GIS Courses prior to the Remote Sensing courses.

"Additionally, by offering GIS and Remote Sensing Certificate Programs, professionals in the community will be able to avail of this coursework and learn new methodologies for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating geospatial data," McClellan said. "The Natural Resource Management Program is filled with promising students who are the embodiment of NMC's motto 'stewardship through scholarship.' This award opportunity is just the beginning of strengthening the NRM Program and setting our students up for success in higher education and beyond. ***(NMC)***

Mawar debris from residential right of way cleaned up in all 19 villages

GUAM—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers debris removal mission comes to a close as contractors completed cleanup of eligible Typhoon Mawar related debris from residential right of way in all 19 villages in Guam.

A coordinated effort among the Office of the Governor of Guam, Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense, the Mayors Council of Guam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Guam Department of Agriculture, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Guam Department of Public Works, Environmental Chemical Corp., Pacific Federal Management and FEMA made it possible to carry out the debris removal and to support Guam residents on their recovery journey.

The Governor's Office has made the initial request to FEMA and its partner agencies to conduct the mission. The mayors of Guam have been an indispensable resource throughout the right of way mission. The mayors provided critical information to USACE on the locations of residential roads and acted as advocates for their community. The local mayors have signed the memorandum on debris removal in all 19 villages. USACE asks that any remaining debris including ineligible and hazardous waste be disposed of properly and not be left out. Any debris remaining will be the residents' responsibility to dispose of.

Certain forms of ineligible debris may be taken to one of the three Guam Solid Waste Authority residential transfer stations in Harmon, Hagat, and Malojloj. Transfer station operation hours are 9am-5pm, Thursday through Monday. A nominal fee is required for disposal of household trash.

Residents are urged to dispose of their solid waste properly. Illegal dumping is a violation of Guam law. In accordance with 10 GCA ¬ß51115(b), illegal dumping is subject to fines of up to $1,000 per day, per violation, along with the cleanup cost associated with the violation.

To view the Debris Mission Dashboard detailing the completed debris mission operation, visit Guam Debris Mission DR4715—Dashboard (PUBLIC) (arcgis.com)

Visit the following links for the latest information:

- Governor's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/govlouguam
- GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/
- GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/ ***(PR)***

San Nicolas' legalizing fireworks bill passes

GUAM—Guam Sen. Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas' consumer fireworks legalization bill, Bill 9-37, was passed by the 37th Guam Legislature on Oct. 31, 2023, during legislative session at the Guam Congress Building in Hagatna.

Bill 9-37 is an act to legalize and regulate the use of consumer-grade fireworks on Guam, which was introduced by San Nicolas in January 2023.

"I introduced Bill 9-37 because this is what I promised to the people of Guam when I ran for public office, to legalize safe and sane consumer fireworks," said San Nicolas. "I would never hurt or put people in harm's way. I just wanted to not only make Guam fun again, but safe. I want to thank the eight legislative colleagues who voted to pass this bill."

San Nicolas

The eight other senators who voted "yes" and joining San Nicolas are Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, Sens. Joe S. San Agustin, Roy A.B. Quinata, William Parkinson, Amanda Shelton, Christopher Duenas, Jesse Lujan, and Thomas Fisher.

If the bill is signed into Guam law, the bill will not only allow the use of consumer fireworks in Guam, but create new business opportunities, contributing to the island's economy as well as enhance familial experiences.

San Nicolas' bipartisan bill is co-sponsored by Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Speaker Muna Barnes, and Sens. San Agustin, Quinata, Parkinson, Lujan, and Fisher. ***(PR)***

9 Construction Bootcamp completers celebrated

GCC

Completers of Guam Community College's 10-week Construction Bootcamp IV pose for a group photo.

» Hired by Black Construction as general laborers

Guam Community College celebrated nine students on Monday, Oct. 30, for their successful completion of the Construction Bootcamp IV. All nine students will be offered the opportunity to work for Black Construction.

With family and colleagues present at the ceremony, completer Royce Taimanglo share his experiences in the 10-week bootcamp. "There was always a bit of kindness and care. They want to be sure that I get what they are teaching me," Taimanglo said. "I really appreciated that. It has been a long time outside of school and it was really empowering. It felt really good. I want everyone else to have this same opportunity with the bootcamp. It was great to see that there are still a lot of good people out there that want to see you succeed."

GCC

Construction Bootcamp IV completer Royce Taimanglo share his experiences in the 10-week bootcamp.

The bootcamp included soft skills training in ACT Work Keys, Work Ethic, and OSHA-10. Credit courses included the Introduction to Carpentry, Electrical I, Masonry I, Rough Framing and Exterior Finishing, and Heart Savers First Aid CPR AED.

Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president, stressed the importance of properly developing bootcampers. "Our completers can be employed in our community, help build the economic development, not just for Guam but for our region," said Okada. "I share this with you because this is the frame work that we have established. These individuals have given up their time, their families have given up their time through their support. They probably wouldn't have done it without you (family). They will be better workers because of your support."

In a traditional bootcamp model students get trained and the institution assists them in looking for jobs. But in this particular model GCC looks for the employer first and puts them on the front end of the whole process.

"As we help to develop their future workers, they help guide us through the curriculum they wanted through the training; the students got to see who the employer possibilities were all through that process. Here today as individuals that have endured 8 to 12 weeks (dependent on the bootcamp) as individuals completed, they now have a job waiting for them trained to work with employers that were there since day one," said Dr. Okada.

Contact GCC's Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development to learn more about this bootcamp which you can avail of at no or little cost to you email or call 671-735-5640. ***(GCC)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Europe figured out how to control social media abuses while protecting benefits. The US should pay attention

Most Republicans and Democrats can agree that Big Tech needs reining in. But given the gridlock in Congress, even popular legislative initiatives are going nowhere these days, including measures that would update the law to address fast-moving social media companies such as Meta. Unlike Europe, which is adopting holistic, modern laws, the U.S. is stuck with dysfunctional legislation-by-lawsuit.

In the latest example, dozens of state attorneys general, including Illinois' Kwame Raoul, have targeted Meta for supposedly violating consumer protection laws by pushing "addictive" products on youngsters.

The bipartisan group of lawyers behind this litigation have compared it to the landmark Big Tobacco cases, except the "addictive" products in this case are Meta's Facebook and Instagram.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage and ultimately ensnare youth and teens," the lawsuit thunders.

But wasn't that true of television networks a few decades ago? Plenty of baby boomers who spent Saturday mornings staring at the telly can confirm that those commercials sold a lot of Cap'n Crunch and Froot Loops, dental decay be damned.

Worse yet — from the attorneys general point of view, that is — Meta's "motive is profit," and the company is "seeking to maximize its financial gains." As Colorado AG Phil Weiser put it, "Just like Big Tobacco and vaping companies have done in years past, Meta chose to maximize its profit at the expense of public health."

The lawsuit's core allegation is that Meta misled the public about the alleged dangers of its social media platforms, and concealed how these platforms get several billion people around the world to spend a lot of time using them. The familiar "likes," "alerts" and "infinite scrolls" that keep youngsters and others glued to their phones are described in the lawsuit as if they're smoking guns that the AGs have just discovered and dramatically flourished to shocked jurors, Hollywood-style.

Some allegations in the lawsuit sound like legitimate issues to us, including the charge that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, which would violate federal law. But our nonsense-detector alarm goes off when New York AG Letitia James overstates, "Kids and teenagers are suffering from record levels of poor mental health and social media companies like Meta are to blame."

James' broadside has its roots in the emergence of Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, who came forward in 2021 with internal documents supposedly showing that Meta knew its products could have a negative impact on the

See EUROPE on Page 9

New House speaker widens partisan climate divide

By MARK GONGLOFF
Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion *editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for* Fortune.com, *the* Huffington Post *and the* Wall Street Journal.

Learning that new Speaker of the House Mike Johnson doesn't believe humans have caused a climate emergency is about as shocking as learning that water is wet. He is an avowed MAGA Republican who may or may not believe Noah had dinosaurs on the Ark. Still, it represents a serious blow in the climate fight that most Americans support, at a moment when we can't afford to waste time playing politics. Just ask taxpayers, who are seeing insurance rates skyrocket to cover the cost of protecting against climate-fueled disasters.

It is now a fact about the United States, the wealthiest nation Earth as well as one of its biggest greenhouse-gas polluters, that a person who has suggested climate change is being caused by "natural cycles" is second in the line of succession to be president. Johnson's ascension from little-known representative from Louisiana risks even more deeply entrenching in American politics the false idea of established climate science as a matter of opinion or debate. Few other countries are so divided on this issue. It wouldn't matter, except that the U.S. should be leading the fight for change. Instead, it risks sinking deeper into paralysis at a time when it's already moving far too slowly to avoid the worst impacts of planetary heating.

Johnson's first act in his new gig was passing a bill gutting billions of dollars from President Joe Biden's landmark climate legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act. The aim, one Republican said, was saving taxpayers "huge amounts of money." But disasters supercharged by global warming cost American taxpayers many billions of dollars more each year—$67 billion so far in 2023—and are crushing the insurance industry. Unabated climate change could cost the U.S. economy $14.5 trillion by 2050, a Deloitte report has estimated.

Oddly, at no point in the weeks of GOP intramural mud-wrestling over the Speakership did the subject of climate arise as an issue of any particular importance. Maybe this is partly because the GOP knows that, like its stances on abortion and the outcome of the 2020 election, its position on climate is politically unpopular.

A solid majority of Americans see climate change as a critical issue that must be addressed now, polls repeatedly show. Though the IRA as a whole hasn't polled too well lately, its specific climate provisions are actually pretty popular. More than half of adults support its tax benefits for solar, wind and heat pumps, according to a recent Washington Post-University of Maryland poll.

The trouble is that the Republican voters who keep people like Johnson in office tend to disagree, overwhelmingly. A large and growing majority of Republicans don't see climate change as a major issue and don't think the government should spend money to do anything about it. Little wonder, then, that even former Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who did at least occasionally nod to the reality of climate change by proposing tree-planting campaigns and such, nonetheless pushed to gut environmental regulations and the IRA's climate investments. Both Johnson and McCarthy, like most Republicans, have enjoyed healthy financial support from the fossil-fuel industry.

Practically speaking, then, swapping McCarthy for Johnson won't make much difference to climate policy, especially with Biden in the White House and Democrats only narrowly holding the Senate. But the optics of replacing a major political leader who occasionally took half-hearted stabs at climate solutions with someone who doesn't believe such solutions are necessary at all is a huge step backward. It's another ratcheting of partisan division on an issue for which the country should be united, if it's to have any hope at all of meeting its goals of cutting emissions to zero by 2050 and avoiding more than 1.5 Celsius of warming above pre-industrial averages.

Decades of propaganda, political rhetoric and shoddy education have left too many Americans with the mistaken belief climate change is controversial or up for debate. But there have recently been glimmers of hope the country is finally breaking out of this grim era. Young Republicans seem far more concerned about climate change, and more interested in solutions, than older ones. Climate-education standards are improving even in conservative states.

With Republicans fighting each other like hyenas over an antelope carcass, Johnson's stint in the Speaker job might be even briefer than McCarthy's 270 days. We can only hope his influence on climate politics is similarly fleeting—and that his eventual replacement won't be even worse.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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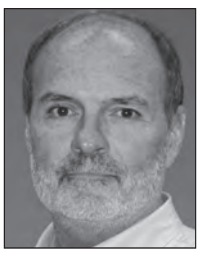
Majority of Americans want their country back



By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

While I was familiarizing myself with Mike Johnson of Louisiana, our new speaker of the House, news arrived of a uniquely American event, another mass shooting, this time in a bowling alley and bar in Lewiston, Maine.

The details are characteristic: Kids were having a good time at youth night in the bowling alley when a white male opened fire with an assault-style, semiautomatic rifle with a high-capacity magazine. Despite Maine's permissive gun laws—concealed carry is allowed without a permit—no good guy with a gun stepped up. At least 18 are reported killed and many more wounded.

Which made me wonder: Why can't we Americans have a society that more closely resembles the one that most of us want?

The fact is, polling shows that most Americans favor stricter gun laws in general, and when specific elements of gun policy are assessed, the numbers are persuasive. For example, according to the Pew Research Center, 61% of Americans say that it is too easy to obtain a gun and 79% favor raising the minimum age to buy a gun to 21 years.

When it comes to the technologies that make mass murders possible—assault-style rifles and high-capacity magazines—most Americans want them banned, at impressive rates: 66% (Pew); 55% (Gallup); 67% (Statista); 61% (PBS, NPR, Marist).

Even though most Americans want to eliminate or restrict these dangerous weapons, somehow we're not able to do it. The mass shootings continue.

I wondered what our new House speaker thinks about this. Mike Johnson's website isn't enlightening. A tab labeled Issues links to bland boilerplate about Rule of Law and Human Dignity, which are "issues" that most Americans already support.

But since the statistics that indicate most citizens' preference for stricter gun laws tend to reflect party affiliation, it's a good bet that our new House speaker—a devoted right-winger—does not support the gun control measures that most of us do.

In fact, Johnson appears to hold minority views regarding other issues, as well. For example, he's an outspoken opponent of abortion rights while 61% of Americans believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases (Pew). And while 71% of Americans support same-sex marriage (Gallup), in 2004 Johnson wrote in the Shreveport Times that homosexuality is "inherently unnatural" and that gay marriage would lead to similar rights for pedophiles.

But here's something that should worry us all: The great majority of Americans believe that Joe Biden won the last election. Not only did Mike Johnson vote against certifying the election, he is credited with coming up with a legal theory to justify Trump's fabricated objections to the election, and he supported a Texas lawsuit to overturn the results in four states clearly won by Biden.

In short, Johnson is an election denier; most Americans are not.

It's a puzzle: How did a man whose views are so out of line with most Americans' achieve the powerful House speakership, a position that puts him second in line for the presidency?

Some of the answer involves the inherent advantages that the minority perspective enjoys in our system, the Electoral College, for example, and disproportionate representation in the Senate. Crafty gerrymandering has also boosted the power of the minority view.

But radical minority views such as Johnson's get a lot of energy from the continuing hold that former President Donald Trump has on the Republican Party. In fact, it appears that no candidate could have become speaker without Trump's imprimatur. That represents a lot of power for the minority and helps explain how the Election Denier in Chief managed to get an election denier into the speakership.

Therefore, we can probably expect to have more policies forced upon us that are the opposite of what most Americans want, which is a sorry situation in a democracy.

And, therefore, a prominent MAGA slogan has some resonance with Americans who wish that public policy would more closely reflect what the public actually desires: "We want our country back."

Denial of climate change may be a party deal-breaker for young conservatives

By SUSAN ATKINSON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Benji Backer, a 25-year-old conservative from Wisconsin, was not pleased with a recent Republican presidential primary debate. The candidates either denied, ignored or downplayed the Fox moderator's question on climate change.

Backer is not alone in his views. Founder of the American Conservation Coalition, Backer said of his peers: "Young people will never vote for a candidate that does not believe in climate change. We're not going away; we are normalizing this as part of the Republican conversation. Republicans deserve to lose if they are climate deniers and don't have a plan."

Climate change is often seen as an intergenerational issue, with the younger generation expected to bear the brunt of the impacts. The GOP's failure to articulate an adequate climate policy is alarming 18- to 38-year-old voters. The cost of inaction will have far-reaching consequences. Some young conservatives are concerned that their party's reluctance to address climate change represents a failure to consider the interests of future generations.

The older conservative generations have broad influence and power over the current climate change narrative, though the time for change is ripe. And the time for climate denial and inaction has passed. The younger conservative generation isn't buying the old narrative.

Young or old, we can see the escalating impact of drought, crop failure, wildfires, sea level rise and storm damage that will devastate future economic prosperity. The younger generations are coming of age and using their votes, which they demonstrated in record numbers in last year's midterm election. Their votes could be crucial in swing states in 2024. They know that the problem is real, that it needs to be addressed now and that conservative policy solutions can make a difference.

GOP House Rep. John Curtis of Utah made a similar point to Backer's. "I believe strongly that if Republicans don't make (climate change) an issue, we will lose the upcoming generation of Republicans," he said. "The upcoming generation will not be patient with us. This is a deal-breaker for them. They'll leave the Republican Party over this one issue."

Well-respected GOP pollster Frank Luntz said in 2019 that of all generations of current voters, "Three in four American voters want to see the government step in to limit carbon emissions—including a majority of Republicans (55%). Voters' concerns simply aren't being addressed."

There are at least four reasons for young conservatives' concern:

■ Scientific consensus: Older conservatives were educated in a time before climate science; younger generations learned climate science along with reading, writing and arithmetic. Education is foundational to our worldview. Advancing policies based on evidence and scientific consensus is crucial for effective solutions.

■ National security: Climate change is increasingly seen as a national security threat due to its potential to exacerbate conflicts over resources, disrupt supply chains and create refugee crises. Addressing climate change is a matter of protecting national security and maintaining geopolitical stability.

■ Economic opportunities: Renewable energy and other climate-friendly technologies represent economic opportunities, including job creation and innovation. Supporting policies that promote clean energy fosters economic growth and reduces reliance on foreign energy sources.

■ Conservative values: Some conservatives may argue that addressing climate change aligns with traditional conservative values, such as responsible stewardship of resources, fiscal responsibility, and a desire to preserve natural beauty and landscapes. Solutions that are pro-market and involve limited government regulation exist—such as a carbon fee and dividend with a border tax adjustment. We need to keep American businesses competitive in global markets.

Republicans should develop a coherent and effective climate policy before they cease to be a politically viable party. The political will is mounting for serious solutions to climate change as public opinion shifts.

Increasing numbers of Americans—including Republicans—are expressing concern and support for action. We need all voices at the solutions table, especially ones that reflect long-standing conservative principles.

Susan Atkinson is a volunteer for the Citizens Climate Lobby, an organization that reaches across the political spectrum to find common ground for climate change action.

EUROPE

From page 8

mental health of youngsters, especially girls. But it's a long way from that assertion to blaming Meta for the declining state of mental health in America.

Even if there is a link between social media use and mental distress, it's unclear that one leads to the other. Studies have not established an increased risk for mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder for social media users, and some therapists believe youngsters turn to social media to help them cope with broader societal stresses.

Would tossing young people off social media altogether necessarily be positive for their well-being? Still hard to say.

Further, the term "social media" covers a lot of ground. Facebook and Instagram are one thing, LinkedIn quite another, Reddit and Pinterest quite another still. One of the ironies of the lawsuit is that it's brought by a group of aging adults supposedly intent on protecting kids and it focuses on Facebook, which is the most studied platform but one that many kids don't use.

Meta, for its part, said it's committed to youth safety online, and has rolled out up-to-date tools to help protect users. "We're disappointed that instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path,"Meta said in a statement.

What's most disappointing is that while America's AGs are grandstanding, and regulators such as the Federal Trade Commission tinker with new ways to restrict how Meta can operate, the European Union has made real progress in broadly protecting consumers. Those going online in the EU get asked up front for their consent to data gathering and other practices they might reasonably object to. Not so here.

And rest assured that if you think Meta's current platforms are "addictive," you ain't seen nothing yet. Artificial Intelligence is coming fast, bringing with it digital systems with longer memories and greater personalization, among other astonishing capabilities.

Again, Europe is closing in on laws that would help protect society from bad actors using AI. Again, not so here.

Try not to laugh out loud at the thought, but our dysfunctional Congress needs to get cracking to create standard rules for the internet.

Even Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg said he thinks so, not long after the embarrassing whistleblower disclosures raised doubts about the trade-offs his company was making in balancing profits and growth with social imperatives. "We're committed to doing the best work we can," Zuckerberg wrote in a note to employees, "but at some level the right body to assess trade-offs between social equities is our democratically elected Congress."

Yes, the same crowd that just went through weeks of messy infighting to pick a new House speaker needs to pull its act together — and fast — before this genie is so far out of the bottle there's no putting it back.

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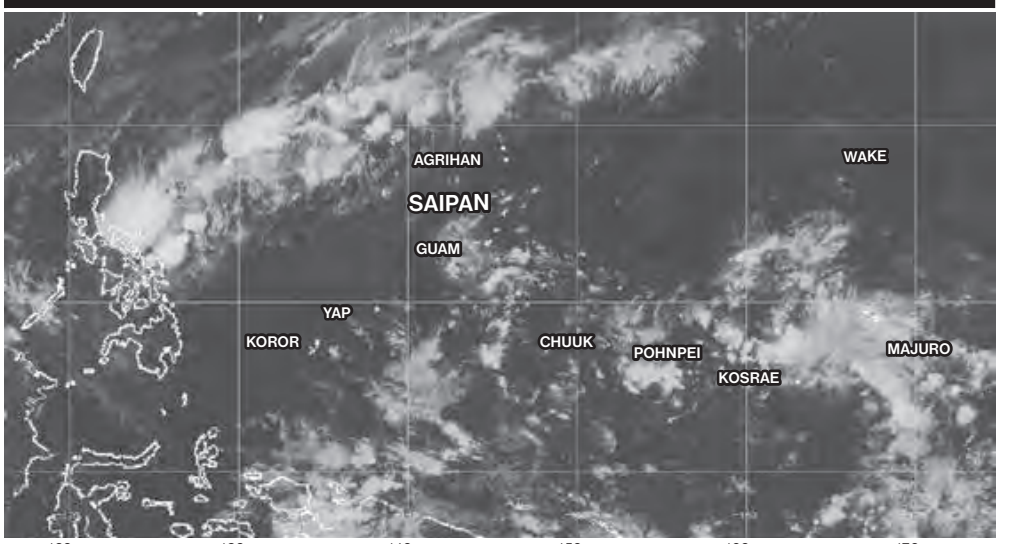
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
87 / 79°	87 / 79°	87 / 79°	86 / 77°	86 / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:07 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is located just to the east of the Marianas this morning. Satellite and radar imagery showed scattered showers associated with this feature. Detectors also indicated lightning occurring with this disturbance. Models show this disturbance passing across the area today and bringing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Low-level convergence in the wake of the trough will continue to produce similar conditions tonight. Earlier forecast had the scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms only over Guam and Rota. While much of the activity is expected over these two locations satellite imagery hinted at activity occasionally further north. Have scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over all the local islands through tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:14 AM	8:36 PM
Thursday	-	10:12 AM	9:31 PM
Friday	-	11:06 AM	10:27 PM
Saturday	-	11:56 AM	11:21 PM
Sunday	-	12:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 57°
Beijing	Cloudy	63° / 46°
Hong Kong	Sunny	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 71°
London	Cloudy	64° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 66°
Manila	Showers	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Miami	Showers	75° / 63°
New York	Showers	69° / 52°
Osaka	Sunny	72° / 55°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	72° / 48°
Busan	Sunny	70° / 54°
Rome	Sunny	73° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	63° / 42°
San Francisco	Sunny	73° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Tokyo	Sunny	66° / 52°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	64° / 47°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:43 AM	Low Tide	-0.45
10:57 AM	High Tide	1.78
4:22 PM	Low Tide	1.20
8:46 PM	High Tide	1.69

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Bank of Guam honored with ABA award

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has received national recognition by the American Bankers Association Foundation with a Community Commitment Award for its efforts in financial literacy. The bank was one of seven banks honored at the 2023 ABA Annual Conference held early this month in Nashville, Tennessee.

Since 2017, Bank of Guam's Financial Empowerment Program has reached over 23,000 individuals through hundreds of educational presentations, targeting high school students, young children, and adults in various communities, including underprivileged areas in Guam and throughout Micronesia. The program, focused on sharing financial knowledge and resources, also serves diverse groups such as individuals with disabilities and nonprofits aiding abused women and reformed prisoners. This initiative underlines the bank's steadfast commitment to the communities it serves.

BOG

Bank of Guam was one of seven banks honored at the 2023 ABA Annual Conference held early this month in Nashville, Tennessee. The ABA Foundation's Community Commitment Awards showcase and recognize banks' extraordinary acts of service to support the people in their communities and grow their local economy.

Entries were submitted in seven categories: affordable housing, community and economic development, financial education, economic inclusion, protecting older Americans, supporting military families and volunteerism. Award winners were chosen by a field of nationally recognized experts in each field.

The selection committee chose the winning banks based on the creativity and thoughtfulness of programs, traditional or innovative in nature and structure, that embody the ideals of corporate social responsibility and demonstrate success in making an impact.

"The nominations in each of these categories were incredibly strong, making this year's winners even more impressive. We applaud Bank of Guam for their commitment to community engagement and hope other banks across the country will be inspired by its Financial Empowerment Program," said ABA Foundation executive director Lindsay Torrico.

"As the People's Bank, we are committed to investing in the financial health of our communities. Over the years, we've grown our financial empowerment program, increased our reach, and strengthened our curriculum to help build the financial prosperity for our island and region. To be recognized for our efforts on the national level and by the American Banking Association is such an incredible honor," said Bank of Guam president and CEO Joaquin P. L.G. Cook.

To learn more about the ABA Foundation Community Commitment Awards, visit aba.com/awards. ***(BOG)***

BOG

From left, Bank of Guam Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, senior vice president, chief experience officer; and Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, president and CEO, accept the American Banking Association's Community Commitment Award in recognition of Bank of Guam's Financial Empowerment Program

UAW reaches deal with General Motors

» Ends strikes against Detroit automakers pending votes

DETROIT (AP)—The United Auto Workers announced Monday that it reached a tentative deal with General Motors, capping a whirlwind few days in which GM, Ford and Stellantis agreed to generous terms that would end the union's six weeks of targeted strikes, pending approval of the rank and file.

The deal UAW President Shawn Fain closed on his 55th birthday is modeled on the ones agreed to with crosstown rivals Ford and Jeep-maker Stellantis, and would give workers higher raises than they've received in years. If approved, it would also claw back some concessions the UAW agreed to almost two decades ago, when the automakers were in desperate financial shape.

Analysts say Fain's combative stance with the companies paid off for the workers, winning them pay and cost-of-living raises that would top 30% by the time the contracts expire in April 2028. Workers would get an immediate 11% pay bump upon ratification.

But analysts say the deals run the risk of forcing the automakers to raise prices beyond those charged by competitors with nonunion factories. And they come at a time when the auto industry is trying to fund a costly and historic shift away from the internal combustion engine to electric vehicles.

"The three tentative agreements show the UAW's power and the car companies' weakness," said Erik Gordon, a business and law professor at the University of Michigan. "The companies are trying to figure out how to transition to EVs without losing too many billions of dollars, and now face a huge bump in labor costs for the products that will finance the EV transition."

Fain, the first UAW president directly elected by members in the union's 88-year history, campaigned against the union establishment by telling workers the companies are the enemy and the UAW would be at war with them. He decried what he called corporate greed, outrageous CEO salaries and a system where the union acted as a business partner with the automakers.

"We wholeheartedly believe that our strike squeezed every last dime out of General Motors," Fain said in a video Monday on X, formerly Twitter.

Fain said the agreements are large enough for the UAW to use them to recruit new members at nonunion factories owned by Tesla, Toyota and others.

"One of our biggest goals coming out of this historic contract victory is to organize like we've never organized before," Fain said Sunday night while announcing details of the contract with Ford. "When we return to the bargaining table in 2028, it won't be just with the Big Three."

Biden wants to move fast on AI safeguards

» Signs an executive order to address his concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Monday signed an ambitious executive order on artificial intelligence that seeks to balance the needs of cutting-edge technology companies with national security and consumer rights, creating an early set of guardrails that could be fortified by legislation and global agreements.

Before signing the order, Biden said AI is driving change at "warp speed" and carries tremendous potential as well as perils.

"AI is all around us," Biden said. "To realize the promise of AI and avoid the risk, we need to govern this technology."

The order is an initial step that is meant to ensure that AI is trustworthy and helpful, rather than deceptive and destructive. The order—which will likely need to be augmented by congressional action—seeks to steer how AI is developed so that companies can profit without putting public safety in jeopardy.

Using the Defense Production Act, the order requires leading AI developers to share safety test results and other information with the government. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is to create standards to ensure AI tools are safe and secure before public release.

The Commerce Department is to issue guidance to label and watermark AI-generated content to help differentiate between authentic interactions and those generated by software. The extensive order touches on matters of privacy, civil rights, consumer protections, scientific research and worker rights.

White House chief of staff Jeff Zients recalled Biden giving his staff a directive when formulating the order to move with urgency.

"We can't move at a normal government pace," Zients said the Democratic president told him. "We have to move as fast, if not faster, than the technology itself."

In Biden's view, the government was late to address the risks of social media and now U.S. youth are grappling with related mental health issues. AI has the positive ability to accelerate cancer research, model the impacts of climate change, boost economic output and improve government services among other benefits. But it could also warp basic notions of truth with false images, deepen racial and social inequalities and provide a tool to scammers and criminals.

With the European Union nearing final passage of a sweeping law to rein in AI harms and Congress still in the early stages of debating safeguards, the Biden administration is "stepping up to use the levers it can control," said digital rights advocate Alexandra Reeve Givens, president of the Center for Democracy & Technology. "That's issuing guidance and standards to shape private sector behavior and leading by example in the federal government's own use of AI."

The order builds on voluntary commitments already made by technology companies. It's part of a broader strategy that administration officials say also includes congressional legislation and international diplomacy, a sign of the disruptions already caused by the introduction of new AI tools such as ChatGPT that can generate text, images and sounds.

The guidance within the order is to be implemented and fulfilled over the range of 90 days to 365 days.

Last Thursday, Biden gathered his aides in the Oval Office to review and finalize the executive order, a 30-minute meeting that stretched to 70 minutes, despite other pressing matters, including the mass shooting in Maine, the Israel-Hamas war and the selection of a new House speaker.

Biden was profoundly curious about the technology in the months of meetings that led up to drafting the order. His science advisory council focused on AI at two meetings and his Cabinet discussed it at two meetings. The president also pressed tech executives and civil society advocates about the technology's capabilities at multiple gatherings.

Nation

Halloween weekend shootings across US leave at least 11 dead

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Shootings across the U.S. over the weekend before Halloween have left at least 11 people dead and more than 70 injured, authorities said.

The deaths between Friday and Sunday included two in Tampa, Florida, three in Texarkana, Texas, and two each in Dodge City, Kansas; San Antonio, Texas; and Mansfield, Ohio, according to police. Many involved altercations arising from Halloween celebrations, including the mass shooting in Tampa's Ybor City section early Sunday as bars were closing and scores of people in costumes spilled out on the streets before groups began arguing.

The spate of weekend violence unfolded as people mourn the 18 killed by a gunman last week in Lewiston, Maine. More than 1,000 people turned out Sunday for a vigil.

AP

A witch hat, left, and an unidentified object are shown in the street near evidence markers in the Ybor City section of Tampa, Fla., after a shooting, Oct. 29, 2023.

"A neighborhood bar. A bowling alley. A Halloween party. It seems we can't go one day without a mass shooting in America," said Kris Brown, president of Brady, a gun violence prevention group. "Anger plus firearms is a deadly combination that can escalate any situation into a warzone in seconds."

One suspect, 22-year-old Tyrell Phillips, is charged with second-degree murder in the Tampa mass shooting and there may be other arrests, Police Chief Lee Bercaw said Sunday. Police initially said there were 18 injured in Tampa but have now revised that number to 16, with five remaining hospitalized Sunday night.

Phillips had his initial court appearance Monday but has not yet entered a plea. He remains jailed without bail pending another hearing set Thursday. Court records did not yet list an attorney to speak for Phillips.

In Indianapolis, a shooting early Sunday at a large party left a teenager dead and nine other teens and young adults between the ages of 16 and 21 injured, police said. The injured were in stable condition.

As of Monday morning, there have been no arrests, said Officer Samone Burris, who said "the case remains active and the investigation is ongoing." Multiple firearms were found at the scene.

"I am frustrated and angry at the news of young people shot at a Halloween party last night," Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett said in a statement Sunday morning. "There are far too many guns in the hands of those who have no business having them, and shocking violence is too often the result."

In Chicago, police said at least 15 people were injured, two of them critically, after a shooter fired shots into a crowd at a Halloween party early Sunday. The suspect was taken into custody, but officials had not announced any charges as of Monday morning.

In Texas, five people were killed and another six were hurt in two separate shootings Saturday night.

San Antonio police said a 13-year-old girl was wounded and her parents were killed after shootout at a house party. A 20-year-old man arrived at the party and an argument ensued, police said. The man started firing a gun, and a 40-year-old man returned fire.

The older man and a 35-year-old woman died at the home, police said. The younger man and his relative and the 13-year-old girl were taken to the hospital with wounds that were not life threatening, police said. Police have announced no charges.

In Texarkana—450 miles (724 kilometers) away along the Arkansas border—police said three people died and three others were wounded during a party in the backroom of a business. Two men started fist fighting when rifles were pulled and gunfire erupted, police said. No arrest has been made.

A 17-year-old boy was killed and three people between the ages of 20 and 24 were injured in a shooting early Saturday, according to police in Cumberland, Maryland.

Officers responding to a report of a shooting in an alley around 1:40 a.m. found a "chaotic scene" and the teen with a gunshot wound, city police said in a statement. The teen later died at a hospital, police said. Three others with gunshot wounds related to the violence arrived at the hospital, but police said their injuries weren't considered life-threatening.

Maine mass shooter's family reached out to sheriff 5 months before rampage

LEWISTON, Maine (AP)—Five months before the deadliest mass shooting in Maine's history, the gunman's family alerted the local sheriff that they were becoming concerned about his deteriorating mental health while he had access to firearms, authorities said Monday.

After the alert, the Sagadohoc County Sheriff's Office reached out to officials of Robert Card's Army Reserve unit, which assured deputies that they would speak to Card and make sure he got medical attention, Sheriff Joel Merry said.

The family's concern about Card's mental health dated back to early this year before the sheriff's office was contacted in May, marking the earliest in a string of interactions that police had with the 40-year-old firearms instructor before he marched a Lewiston bowling alley and a bar last Wednesday, killing 18 people and wounding 13 others.

After an intensive two-day search that put residents on edge, he was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot.

Card underwent a mental health evaluation last summer after accusing soldiers of calling him a pedophile, shoving one and locking himself in his room during training in New York, officials said. A bulletin sent to police shortly after last week's attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

Documents released from the sheriff on Monday gave the most detailed timeline yet of other warning signs and failed efforts to stop the gunman months before he killed.

On Sept. 15, a sheriff's deputy was sent to visit Card's home for a wellness check at the request of the reserve unit after a soldier said he was afraid Card was "going to snap and commit a mass shooting" because he was hearing voices again. The deputy went to Card's trailer but could not find him — nor the next day on a return visit. The sheriff's department then sent out a statewide alert for help locating Card with a warning that he was known to be "armed and dangerous" and that officers should use extreme caution.

By this time, Card's reserve unit had grown sufficiently concerned that it had decided to take away his military-issued firearms, the sheriff's office was told. Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ruth Castro confirmed that account, adding that Card was also declared "non-deployable" and that multiple attempts were made to contact him.

Biden administration moving toward a narrower student loan relief targeting groups of borrowers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is moving toward a narrower student loan relief plan that would target specific groups of borrowers—those with soaring interest, for example—rather than a sweeping plan like the one the Supreme Court rejected in June.

The Education Department on Monday released a draft of new federal rules paving the way for a second attempt at student loan relief. The proposal targets groups that are seen as especially vulnerable, focusing on those who owe so much, or make so little income, that they otherwise may never repay their loans.

Though full details are likely months away, the department says it wants to cancel some or all student debt for: borrowers whose balances exceed what they originally owed; those who have loans that entered repayment 25 or more years ago; those who used loans to attend career-training programs that led to "unreasonable" debt loads or insufficient earnings; those who are eligible for other loan forgiveness programs but did not apply.

A fifth group is also being discussed—"those who are experiencing financial hardship that the current student loan system does not currently adequately address."

"President Biden and I are committed to helping borrowers who've been failed by our country's broken and unaffordable student loan system," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement. "We are fighting to ensure that student debt does not stand in the way of opportunity or prevent borrowers from realizing the benefits of their higher education."

President Joe Biden's initial plan was broader. It would have canceled up to $20,000 in federal student loans for those with annual incomes below $125,000 or couples below $250,000. But after that was rejected by the court's conservative majority, he called on the Education Department to try again using a different legal basis.

The new proposal aims to tackle issues that are seen as some of the biggest culprits behind skyrocketing debt.

It would help counter interest that snowballs beyond borrowers' original balances. It would offer relief to borrowers who attended for-profit college programs with poor outcomes. It would also help older borrowers who took out loans decades ago and struggle to make payments.

The department says it will continue to refine the proposal as it goes through a federal rulemaking process. The public will be able to provide written feedback next year.

The draft proposal would give the department authority to wipe away federal student loans entirely for borrowers in some categories.

For those who started repaying loans more than 25 years ago, the proposal says that "the secretary may waive the outstanding balance of a loan"—amounting to total cancellation. It's the same for borrowers who are eligible for other cancellation programs but haven't applied.

Loans used to attend low-value college programs would also be wiped away. Borrowers would fall into that category if they attended a program that fails new standards outlined in a separate federal rule known as gainful employment.

For those with snowballing interest, the proposal would reset their loans back to the original balance, effectively canceling unpaid interest.

Even a more limited plan for relief is sure to draw fierce opposition from Republicans, who see cancellation as an unfair burden on taxpayers.

World

Israel ground forces push deeper into Gaza

» Frees Hamas captive
» Netanyahu rejects calls for cease-fire

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP)— Israeli ground forces pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing in tanks and other armored vehicles on the territory's main city and freeing a soldier held captive by Hamas militants. The Israeli prime minister rejected calls for a cease-fire as airstrikes landed near hospitals where thousands of Palestinians are sheltering beside the wounded.

The military said a soldier captured during Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 incursion was rescued in Gaza—the first rescue since the weekslong war began. Military officials provided few details but said in a statement that Pvt. Ori Megidish, 19, was "doing well" and had met with her family.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed her home, saying the "achievement" by Israel's security forces "illustrates our commitment to free all the hostages."

He also rejected calls for a cease-fire to facilitate the release of captives or end the war, which he has said will be long and difficult. "Calls for a cease-fire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas," he told a news conference. "That will not happen."

Netanyahu, who faces mounting anger over Israel's failure to prevent the worst surprise attack on the country in a half century, also said he had no plans to resign.

Hamas and other militant groups are believed to be holding some 240 captives, including men, women and children. Netanyahu has faced increasing pressure to secure their release even as Israel acts to crush Hamas and end its 16-year rule over the territory.

Hamas, which has released four hostages, has said it would let the others go in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, including many implicated in deadly attacks on Israelis. Israel has dismissed the offer, and Netanyahu said the ground invasion "creates the possibility" of getting the hostages out, adding that Hamas will "only do it under pressure."

Hamas released a short video Monday purporting to show three other female captives. One delivers a brief statement—likely under duress—criticizing Israel's response to the hostage crisis.

It was not clear when the Hamas video was made. The Associated Press usually refrains from reporting details of hostage videos because they show individuals speaking under duress and are often used for propaganda purposes.

Mexican security authorities raise Hurricane Otis death toll to 39

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Kristian Vera stood on an Acapulco beach Saturday looking out toward dozens of sunken boats, including three of her own, all marked by floating buoys or just poking out of the water.

Despite losing her livelihood in Hurricane Otis' brutal pass through Mexico's southern Pacific coast, the 44-year-old fisher felt fortunate. That morning, she had watched a body pulled from the water and had seen the families coming and going, looking for their loved ones.

Mexican authorities raised Otis' official toll to 39 dead and 10 missing Saturday. But Vera and others suggested that number will likely grow, in part because of the number of people who rode out on boats during what had started as a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane on Wednesday.

Vera took turns with four others swimming out with empty gas jugs for flotation to try to raise their sunken boats from the shallow harbor.

Leaning against a small wooden fishing boat like her own, tipped on its side on a beach strewn with trash and fallen trees, Vera explained that some of the people who died were either fishers caring for their boats or yacht captains who were told by their owners that they needed to make sure their boats were OK when Otis was still a tropical storm.

"That night I was so worried because I live off of this, it's how I feed my kids," Vera said. "But when I began to feel how strong the wind was, I said, 'Tomorrow I won't have a boat, but God willing Acapulco will see another day.'"

Earlier Saturday, Security Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said in a recorded video message with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador posted to the platform X that the probable cause of death for the 39 was "suffocation by submersion." She said the victims had not yet been identified and that investigations continue.

The new death toll was an increase of 12 over the initial tally of 27 announced Thursday. But the storm's human toll was becoming a point of contention as local media reported the recovery of more bodies and López Obrador criticized opponents for trying to make it a political issue.

Rodríguez also said the number of missing rose to 10. Hundreds of families have been awaiting word from loved ones.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Remains of former Chinese premier Li Keqiang to be cremated

BEIJING (AP)—The remains of former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang are to be cremated on Thursday, with flags around the country to be flown at half-staff to mourn the official who helped guide the world's second-largest economy for a decade. Li died Friday of a heart attack at 68. Mourners gathered at his childhood home in the city of Hefei in an apparently spontaneous outpouring of grief seen by some as a rebuke of state leader and head of the ruling Communist Party Xi Jinping. Li was once seen as a potential top leader, but the trained economist was shunted aside in a leadership shakeup last year and replaced with Xi loyalist Li Qiang. Even before then, Xi had consolidated power and sidelined potential rivals with an anti-corruption campaign and by altering the constitution to allow himself to rule indefinitely. Xi has also thoroughly reshuffled economic and financial leadership positions and set up an entity called the Central Financial Commission in moves that are seen as shifting power from other regulators such as the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

India police detain man as suspect in explosion that killed 3 people at Jehovah's Witness gathering

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in southern India detained a man for suspected involvement in setting off explosives at a Jehovah's Witness gathering in southern India that killed at least three people and wounded 50 others, authorities said Monday. Hundreds of faithful were at a prayer session Sunday at the Zamra International Convention Center in the town of Kalamassery in Kerala state when the explosion took place. The state's top police officer, Sheik Darvesh Saheb, said an initial investigation determined an improvised explosive device was used. The suspect was identified by police as Dominic Martin, who posted a video on Facebook claiming responsibility for the blast before surrendering to the police. Martin said in the video he feels the Jehovah's Witness theology is wrong and that is what led him to carry out the blast. "They teach that all people of the world would perish and only they will live. What should we do with people who long for the ruin of the entire people in the world. I could not find a solution. I took the decision realizing that this idea is dangerous to the country," Martin said in the video. Police said they were working to verify Martin's claims. Jehovah's Witnesses identify as Christians but are guided by distinctive beliefs and practices. They are known for their door-to-door proselytism.

Japan court says N. Korea responsible for abuses of people lured there by false promises

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese high court on Monday said the North Korean government was responsible for the human rights abuses of plaintiffs who said they were lured to the North by Pyongyang's false promise of living in "paradise on Earth," a decision praised as a victory by survivors and their supporters. "The ruling showed that a Japanese court can rule on North Korea's human rights violations, one that could have a significant impact," said a lawyer for the plaintiffs, Kenji Fukuda. The four plaintiffs, including ethnic Koreans and Japanese, moved to North Korea with thousands of others under a 1959-1984 program in which the North promised free health care, education, jobs and other benefits. But they said none of that was available and they were mostly assigned manual work at mines, forests or farms and forced to live in harsh conditions. Originally, five plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in 2018 with the Tokyo District Court seeking 100 million yen ($900,000) each in compensation for "illegal solicitation and detainment." The district court acknowledged in a March 2022 ruling that the plaintiffs had moved to North Korea because of false information provided by the North and a pro-North Korean organization in Japan, Chongryon. But the ruling said the statute of limitations had expired and that Japanese courts do not have jurisdiction because the plaintiffs' suffering took place outside Japan. Four plaintiffs appealed the decision, arguing that Japan has jurisdiction because their ordeal began when they boarded ships in a Japanese port. On Monday, the Tokyo High Court ruled that the Japanese court had jurisdiction over the case and found that the North Korean government violated the rights of the plaintiffs by forcing them to live under miserable, harsh conditions that were completely different from the information provided before their trip. The North infringed on the plaintiffs' freedom to choose a place to live, and they were virtually "robbed of their lives" as a result, the court said. The case now returns to the Tokyo District Court, where it will review the extent of damages the North Korean government must pay to the plaintiffs, their lawyers said. North Korea, however, has never responded to the lawsuit and likely will not pay damages.

In Celebration of His New Life
†Anthony
Castro Reyes
Born to Life March 2, 1957
Was called by His Creator on
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the age of 66
IN HIS NEW LIFE, †Anthony will be greeted at the gates of heaven by his:
MOTHER: †Juliana Cabrera Castro Reyes
FATHER: †Gallus Ambrose Sablan Reyes
MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: †Juan deCastro & †Dolores Taisague Cabrera Castro
PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: †Antonio Cruz & †Maria Hall Sablan Delos Reyes
SIBLINGS: †Carmen Castro Reyes, †Teresita Reyes Manalo (†Jose), and †Ana Reyes Borja
†Anthony's love and memories will forever be cherished in the hearts of his:
CHILDREN and GRANDCHILDREN: Anthony P. & Kimberly Stole
(Jesse Jack, Ayanna Jae, Nayeli, Abrielle, Trevon)
Heather Lynn P. Stole (Nahlia Uheina, Niah Marie)
Julia Marie Reyes
Kathleen Elizabeth Reyes (Kumiko)
SIBLINGS:
Alfredo I. & Remedios Castro Guerrero and family
†Carmen Castro Reyes and family
Dolores Reyes Clark and family
Joseph Castro Reyes & Mary Ann Sablan Milne-Reyes and family
†Ana Reyes Borja and family
†Jose & †Teresita Reyes Manalo and family
†Anthony will also be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.
On Monday, November 6, 2023, at San Antonio Church, the Responso will be said at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am and then our Beloved †Anthony will be escorted by his family and friends to the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi, where he will be laid to rest.
Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You from the bottom of our hearts.
I Familia

Good Housekeeping

Pet-friendly and child-friendly designs

HANDOUT/TNS
Warm and brightly colored spaces help to create a family and children friendly vibe.

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

Design should not only be beautiful but durable as well. While in some instances, a higher price tag may mean higher quality, this isn't always the case. Good design doesn't always have to be expensive.

In the case of pets and children, there is an inherent "wear and tear" factor, that should be considered. Even so, of course, we want to have all members of the family be able to feel joy and relaxation in a well-designed space!

This is where a thoughtful selection of pet and child friendly materials and finishes comes into play.

General rules of thumb

Some general design rules for pet and child friendly spaces include:

- Washable Fabrics.
- Cushions with removable covers for easy washing or replacement.
- Wipeable fabrics.
- Sturdy Construction.

Pet- and child-friendly design tips

- Light, washable cotton fabrics.
- Commercial grade fabrics such as Sunbrella and Crypton.
- Leather and Faux Leather.

Things to Avoid

- Boucle or woven knit fabrics.
- Velvet or materials that will easily show dirt or pet hair.
- Delicate or hard to clean fabrics.
- Glass or items that can easily chip or break.

Color tips

- Bright colors that can hide stains easily.
- Bold patterns that can hide stains or light wear and tear.
- Colors that can be easily touched up pens (typically white, black, brown or metallics such as gold or silver).

Takeaway tip

Purchase items that will go the distance as opposed to disposable items that will need to be repeatedly replaced. In some instances, those disposable items may serve a purpose during a certain phase such as a pet's puppy years or a child's toddler phase, but be sure to also incorporate those well designed quality pieces that will also be reliable and durable.

HANDOUT/TNS
Buddy.

How can I make a clean sweep this holiday season?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Ask Angi

When you think about cleaning your house, you probably think of a professional maid service that arrives with a bucket, mop, broom and cleaning supplies to wipe down all your surfaces and give the floor a good sweep. And indeed, that's the most popular type of home cleaning service, but it's not the only one.

Pros focusing on keeping your home clean comprise an entire ecosystem of specialists. Read on to learn about the most popular cleaning services for your home and how they can improve both the function and safety of your home as you prepare for the holiday season.

Housecleaning

National Average: $180-$250

Hiring a pro cleaner gives you the gift of time to spend on other matters while someone else worries about wiping down the fridge. But they also bring their expertise and efficiency to maximize the use of their time. Professional housecleaners wipe down surfaces, sanitize areas, sweep and mop, and get into the nooks and crannies of your home that you can so easily miss or forget about.

Carpet Cleaning

National Average: $25-$75 per room

Your carpets take more wear and tear than almost anything else in your house. They receive constant foot traffic, kids and pets tend to take a toll on them, and even under good conditions, they wear out after a while. But a good carpet cleaning job can rejuvenate even the most tired carpet. Professionals recommend getting your carpets cleaned once per year. A pro carpet cleaning service can use chemicals, tools and techniques unavailable to most homeowners to lift out dirt and grime that seems impossible to get rid of. Special shampoos, steam cleaning and even carbonated bubbles can make your carpets seem as good as new.

Gutter Cleaning

National Average: $120-$230

As strange as it may sound, gutter cleaning is one of the most crucial cleaning tasks you can do for your home. Clean gutters protect your roof, yard, foundation and basement. Water pouring straight off the roof can cause yard erosion and foundation or basement damage. Water that backs up from clogged gutters and stays on the roof can cause ice dams in winter or mold and water damage any other time. Clean gutters help smoothly directly water several feet away from your home.

Gutter cleaning is a dangerous job that, by its very nature, requires using a ladder, so it's best to hire for this work. Make sure your pro carries the proper liability and worker's comp insurance so that you will not be held responsible in the event of any accidents.

Upholstery Cleaning

National Average: $120-$230

You probably don't give a lot of thought to cleaning your upholstery, but this process can beautify your furniture and add years or decades of useful life to it. A pro cleaning treatment removes bacteria, scents, and stains and can make an old chair or couch look brand new.

Window Cleaning

National Average: $150-$300

Windows getting dirty is a fact of life. Window exteriors take a regular pounding from wind, rain, snow and other elements, and the exteriors inevitably pick up debris from indoors. And since windows offer a perfectly clear surface, any debris and imperfections will be all the more obvious.

Wiping down interior windows is a breeze. However, cleaning your exterior windows can be a difficult and occasionally dangerous job, especially if you have more than one story. Fortunately, pro cleaners have the tools and expertise to do this work smoothly, quickly and safely. Pros charge between $4-$15 per window, depending on window size and accessibility.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

Life & Style

Matthew Perry's 'Friends' cast mates say they are 'all utterly devastated'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The stars of "Friends" say they are mourning the "unfathomable" death of Matthew Perry.

"We are all so utterly devastated by the loss of Matthew," Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, and David Schwimmer said in a joint statement to People on Monday. "We were more than just cast mates. We are a family."

From 1994 to 2004, each of the five actors appeared in every episode of all 10 seasons of the NBC sitcom along with Perry, who was found dead at his Los Angeles home on Saturday at age 54.

"There is so much to say, but right now we're going to take a moment to grieve and process this unfathomable loss," the statement said. "In time we will say more, as and when we are able. For now, our thoughts and our love are with Matty's family, his friends, and everyone who loved him around the world."

AP

Matthew Perry, from left, Courteney Cox Arquettte, David Schwimmer, Jennifer Aniston and Matt LeBlanc of the television show "Friends" arrive for NBC's 75th Anniversary event on May 5, 2002 in New York.

It was the first public statement on Perry's death from Aniston, Cox, Kudrow, LeBlanc or Schwimmer.

After an initial investigation, the Los Angeles County coroner has deferred giving a cause of death, which may take weeks to determine.

Others public mourning Perry on Monday included Salma Hayek, his co-star in the 1997 rom-com "Fools Rush In," which Perry had said was probably his best film.

"It's taken me a couple of days to process this profound sadness. There is a special bond that happens when you share dreams with someone, and together you work towards them," Hayek said in an Instagram post. "Throughout the years, he and I found ourselves reminiscing about that meaningful time in our lives with a deep sense of nostalgia and gratitude. My friend, you are gone much too soon, but I will continue to cherish your silliness, your perseverance, and your lovely heart."

Perry is being mourned by fans worldwide, including some who placed flowers and heartfelt tributes outside the New York building that served as an exterior for the show.

Others who worked with Perry expressed their sorrow on Sunday, included "Friends" co-creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane, who said, echoing the style of the show's episode titles, that this "truly is The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken."

Morgan Fairchild, who played mother to Perry's Chandler Bing on the show, and Maggie Wheeler, who played Chandler's sometime girlfriend Janice, gave similar sentiments.

Actor Robert De Niro tells jury in a lawsuit by a former assistant: 'This is all nonsense'

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert De Niro testified Monday in New York City at a trial resulting from a former personal assistant's lawsuit accusing the actor of being an abusive boss. De Niro, who at times appeared grouchy, restrained himself from erupting at the dissection of his interactions with her before finally blurting out: "This is all nonsense!"

De Niro

The two-time Oscar-winning actor known for his performances in blockbuster movies like "The Deer Hunter" and "Raging Bull" was the first witness in a trial resulting from lawsuits over the employment of Graham Chase Robinson. Robinson, who worked for De Niro between 2008 and 2019, was paid $300,000 annually before she quit as his vice president of production and finance.

The woman, tasked for years with everything from decorating De Niro's Christmas tree to taking him to the hospital when he fell down stairs, has sued him for $12 million in damages for severe emotional distress and reputational harm. Robinson said he refused to give her a reference to find another job when she quit in 2019 after repeated clashes with his girlfriend.

De Niro, 80, testified through most of the afternoon, agreeing that he had listed Robinson as his emergency contact at one point and had relied on her to help with greeting cards for his children.

But when a lawyer for Robinson asked him if he considered her a conscientious employee, he scoffed.

"Not after everything I'm going through now," he said.

De Niro twice raised his voice almost to a shout during his testimony. Once, it occurred as he defended the interactions his girlfriend had with Robinson, saying, "We make decisions together."

The second time occurred when Robinson's lawyer tried to suggest that De Niro bothered his client early in the morning to take him to the hospital in 2017.

"That was one time when I cracked my back falling down the stairs!" De Niro angrily snapped. Even in that instance, he added, he delayed calling Robinson, making it to his bed after the accident at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m., but then later summoning her at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m.

Repeatedly, Judge Lewis J. Liman explained the rules of testimony to De Niro and that there were limits to what he could say.

"Can I ask a question?" De Niro asked in one exchange with Robinson's lawyer. The request was denied.

He insisted that he treated Robinson well even after he bought a five-bedroom Manhattan townhouse and let Robinson oversee some of the preparations so he could move there with his girlfriend, Tiffany Chen.

Family wants friendship with gay man to end

DEAR ABBY: I live in a rural community in southern Indiana. It's an "everyone goes to church on Sunday, and everyone knows everyone" kind of place. I was employed at the local health care center here for almost four years before quitting to become a full-time caregiver and homemaker.

During my time at the health care facility, I became acquainted with an elderly gentleman. We became good friends, and remain good friends to this day. I visit with him several times a week, when time allows, and we talk on the telephone.

The problem is, his family doesn't like that I am a homosexual male and that I have such a close relationship with him. He does not want me to stop visiting, nor do I want to. What can I do to make everyone relax, so he and I can still remain good friends without someone disapproving?

UNAPPRECIATED FRIEND

DEAR FRIEND: I wish I understood exactly what the family's objection is to your friendship with this person. Are they afraid you are after his money? Or are they incapable of understanding that homosexuals can (and do!) have platonic friendships with straight folks?

If you and that gentleman want to remain friends, you may have to grow a thicker skin. You cannot please everyone, and whether his family "approves" is beside the point. I hope you will keep doing what you have been doing because it is beneficial for that man to have a friend he can count on.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister, who is quite a bit older than me, was married to a man for more than 20 years. He was a part of my family from the time I was 3. When I was a teenager, he made a "move" on me, which was disgusting because I trusted him. My family swept it under the rug and downplays it to this day. If that wasn't enough, I twice caught him cheating on my sister. They eventually divorced.

As an adult, I want nothing to do with him. However, my sister and mother insist on him being involved in our important gatherings. I feel they completely disregard my feelings, and I have since removed myself from those gatherings. I feel cheated, but they say it's "necessary" for him to be around their shared children, and they keep trying to make me feel like I am being unreasonable. Am I?

LITTLE SISTER IN TENNESSEE

DEAR SISTER: You are not unreasonable; you are pragmatic. You come from a family that prefers to ignore misbehavior rather than confront and deal with it. I don't know if you have had psychotherapy, but from what you have written you might have—and with a very competent therapist.

Enforcing boundaries is not unreasonable. While your sister and mother may prefer hiding their heads in the sand "for the sake of the children," who by now should be pretty close to adulthood, you have every right to keep your distance. From my perspective, what you are doing is healthy.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

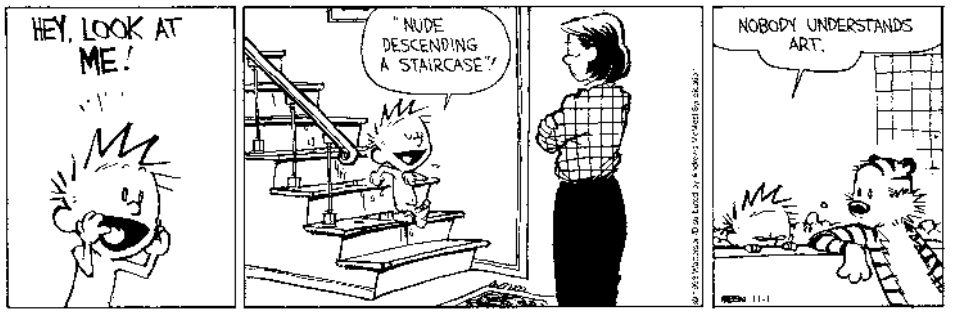
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

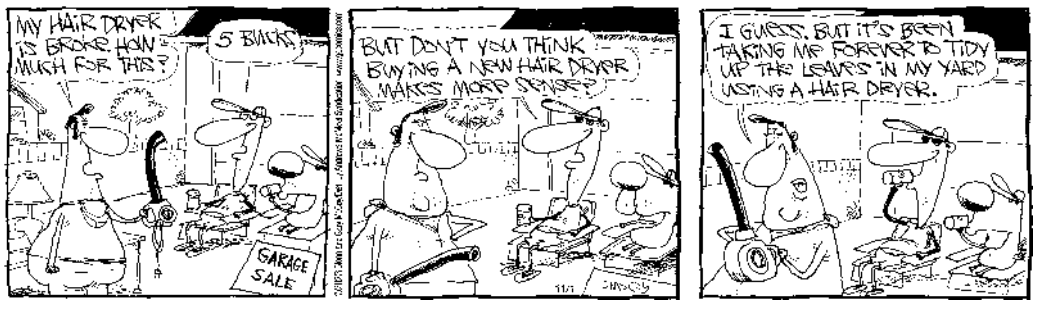
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAY-AFTER-HALLOWEEN COMEDOWN?
YEAH. IT'S SO HARD.
I KNOW, BUT... ONLY 364 DAYS 'TIL THE NEXT ONE.
POOR LITTLE UN DEAD GUY.
MAYBE WE DOUSE HIM WITH FAKE BLOOD TO RAISE HIS SPIRITS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MY HAIR DRYER IS BROKE. HOW MUCH FOR THIS?
5 BUCKS.
GARAGE SALE
BUT DON'T YOU THINK BUYING A NEW HAIR DRYER MAKES MORE SENSE?
I GUESS. BUT IT'S BEEN TAKING ME FOREVER TO TIDY UP THE LEAVES IN MY YARD USING A HAIR DRYER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hake's relative
4 "Planet —" (album by Doja Cat)
7 "Absolutely!"
8 Italian physicist
10 Disney deer
11 Francis or Dahl
13 "I Wanna Rock" heavy metal band
16 Tax form ID
17 Cornell and Yale, e.g.
18 Anger
19 Appear
20 Battery fluid
21 Bridge support
23 Handbag
25 Paraphernalia
26 Sobbed
27 D.C. baseballer
28 Taxi costs
30 Hot tub
33 10 Downing Street resident
36 Entraps
37 "— Theme" ("Doctor Zhivago" tune)
38 18th president
39 Ellipse
40 Golfer Ernie
41 Homer's neighbor

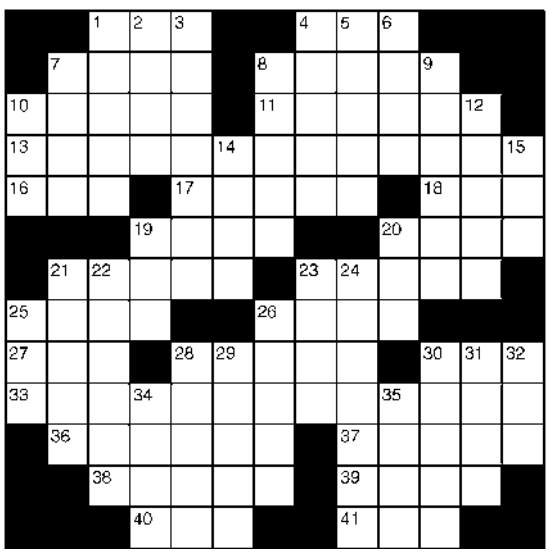
DOWN

1 Curry spice
2 Spheres
3 Pantheon members
4 Equine
5 Designer Perry
6 Numbered rds.
7 Tools with teeth
8 "Barbarella" director
9 Capers
10 "Mic Drop" K-pop band
12 Haunting
14 Holiday lead-ins
15 Flushed
19 California's Big —
20 Curator's concern
21 Eye drops
22 Five stars, e.g.
23 Hammer part
24 Letter after tau
25 Econ. statistic
26 Place for a watch
28 Untamed
29 Church cries
30 Valuable violin
31 Bell sound
32 MGM motto start
34 Stallion's mate
35 Goalie's goal

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	M	I	D		C	E	E		R	U	M	P		
H	I	F	I		O	H	C		E	S	A	U		
A	S	S	T		B	O	O	S	T	E	R	S		
B	O	O	Z	E	R	S		H	U	H	I	S		
			E	V	A		F	O	R					
R	O	U	S	E		G	O	O	N	I	E	S		
U	H	N			M	A	P			C	O	O		
B	O	M	E	R	S		S	P	I	N	S			
			A	L	I		R	A	L					
O	V	I	N	F		B	O	O	T	C	U	T		
B	O	O	G	A	L	O	O		E	L	L	E		
F	T	T	F		A	R	M		R	A	N	D		
Y	E	A	R		Y	F	S		S	P	A	S		

Yesterday's answer 11-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Toni Collette, 51; Jenny McCarthy, 51; Anthony Kiedis, 61; Lyle Lovett, 66.

Happy Birthday: Stick to the truth and use the bare minimum. Covering for others will set you back financially or emotionally. Concentrate on what's important to you and turn your thoughts into a reality. Be the take-charge person who offers positive change and hope. Settle in for the long race and go the distance. Refuse to let your feelings interfere with decisions that can waste your time and money or damage your reputation. Your numbers are 8, 13, 22, 24, 31, 33, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention to what's happening around you. Someone you least expect will need emotional support. Extend a helping hand, and you'll receive information that helps you let go of the past or something that isn't working for you anymore. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change will excite you and spark your imagination. Share your thoughts with someone you respect, and you'll receive input that leads to something concrete. Don't ponder what to do next; act and enjoy the ride. A partnership looks promising, and romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Finish what you start and choose rest. Giving in to temptation or changing to please someone trying to control you will have repercussions you can avoid if you stand up for yourself. Keep your plans a secret and say no. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Settle differences and choose a lifestyle you crave. It's up to you to do what makes you happy and to adjust to whatever it takes to live life your way. Use your skills freely, and you'll transform how you earn your living. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consider your best choice regarding investments and contracts. Don't feel obligated to take a position based on someone else's needs instead of how content you are with the arrangements. Turn a change you face at home or work into an opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Someone will show insecurity if you are indifferent toward suggestions or a partnership. Keep the peace, but don't let anyone lead you down a path you'll regret. Call the shots and compliment others, and the changes you want to enforce will get the go-ahead. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Review an expert's research; you'll stay on course and avoid interference. You may not favor a domestic change, but as the day progresses, benefits will unfold. A friendly gesture will keep others guessing and help get your point across and support in place. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen to what others say and look for any hint of recklessness before sharing your thoughts and feelings. Don't let the changes around you trigger anger or defuse your confidence. Your best defense is to follow your intuition and common sense. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Participate because you want to, not to avoid a run-in with someone controlling. Set yourself free, share your feelings and head in a direction that offers peace of mind, puts a smile on your face and helps you get ahead. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Spiff up your place, host an event or change your lifestyle to help you achieve your dreams. Use intuition to avoid losing or to dodge a problem with a friend or colleague. Be aggressive and pursue what's important to you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take time to hone your skills, do something you enjoy or rehabilitate your body, mind and soul. Don't let anyone push you into something you consider exhausting or wasteful. Wish others the best and take a pass; honesty is the best policy. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Dig in and finish on time. Don't count on or wait for someone to step in and take over. Opportunity will surface based on how you take care of your responsibilities. Be forthright to avoid misleading someone. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are secretive, independent and wise. You are resourceful and charismatic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	5	8	1			9	
	8				7	1		
			3	9			5	7
	1	9	5					8
4			1	3			7	
	3			4		9		
		2		8	1	6		9
				6	3			5
6	9		4					

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/1

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	8	7	3	1	6	5	2
6	2	7	8	4	5	3	9	1
3	1	5	2	9	6	7	4	8
5	8	1	6	7	2	9	3	4
7	3	4	9	5	8	2	1	6
2	6	9	3	1	4	5	8	7
8	4	3	5	6	7	1	2	9
9	7	2	1	8	3	4	6	5
1	5	6	4	2	9	8	7	3

Difficulty: ★★ 11/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ALL SAINTS' DAY Solution: 9 letters

B	C	T	N	A	H	P	M	U	I	R	T	S	S	Y
M	L	N	D	O	C	I	S	U	M	H	O	P	E	R
O	E	E	E	L	R	S	E	V	A	R	G	I	R	E
T	R	T	S	C	U	O	M	A	R	Y	R	R	U	T
N	G	I	A	S	H	O	L	F	T	E	C	I	T	E
A	Y	N	E	V	C	R	S	E	Y	F	E	T	P	M
T	N	E	C	I	E	F	I	A	R	M	L	S	I	E
S	M	P	E	G	E	V	R	S	S	I	E	O	R	C
E	Y	R	D	I	I	P	O	T	T	L	B	C	C	I
T	H	G	I	L	W	O	R	L	D	I	R	E	S	L
O	R	O	N	O	H	T	I	A	F	T	A	T	O	O
R	S	O	L	E	M	N	I	T	Y	A	T	N	N	H
P	S	N	A	N	G	L	I	C	A	N	E	E	G	T
H	A	L	L	O	W	M	A	S	G	T	D	P	S	A
S	M	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	M	E	M	M	O	C

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Anglican, Bless, Catholic, Celebrated, Cemetery, Christian, Church, Clergy, Commemoration, Deceased, Faith, Feast, Graves, Hallowmas, Honor, Hope, Hymn, Light, Love, Martyrs, Mary, Mass, Militant, Music, Penitent, Pentecost, Prayer, Protestant, Role, Scriptures, Solemnity, Songs, Soul, Spirits, Tomb, Triumphant, Vigil, World

Yesterday's Answer: Monster Mash

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Rangers lead D-backs 2-1, but may miss injured García, Scherzer

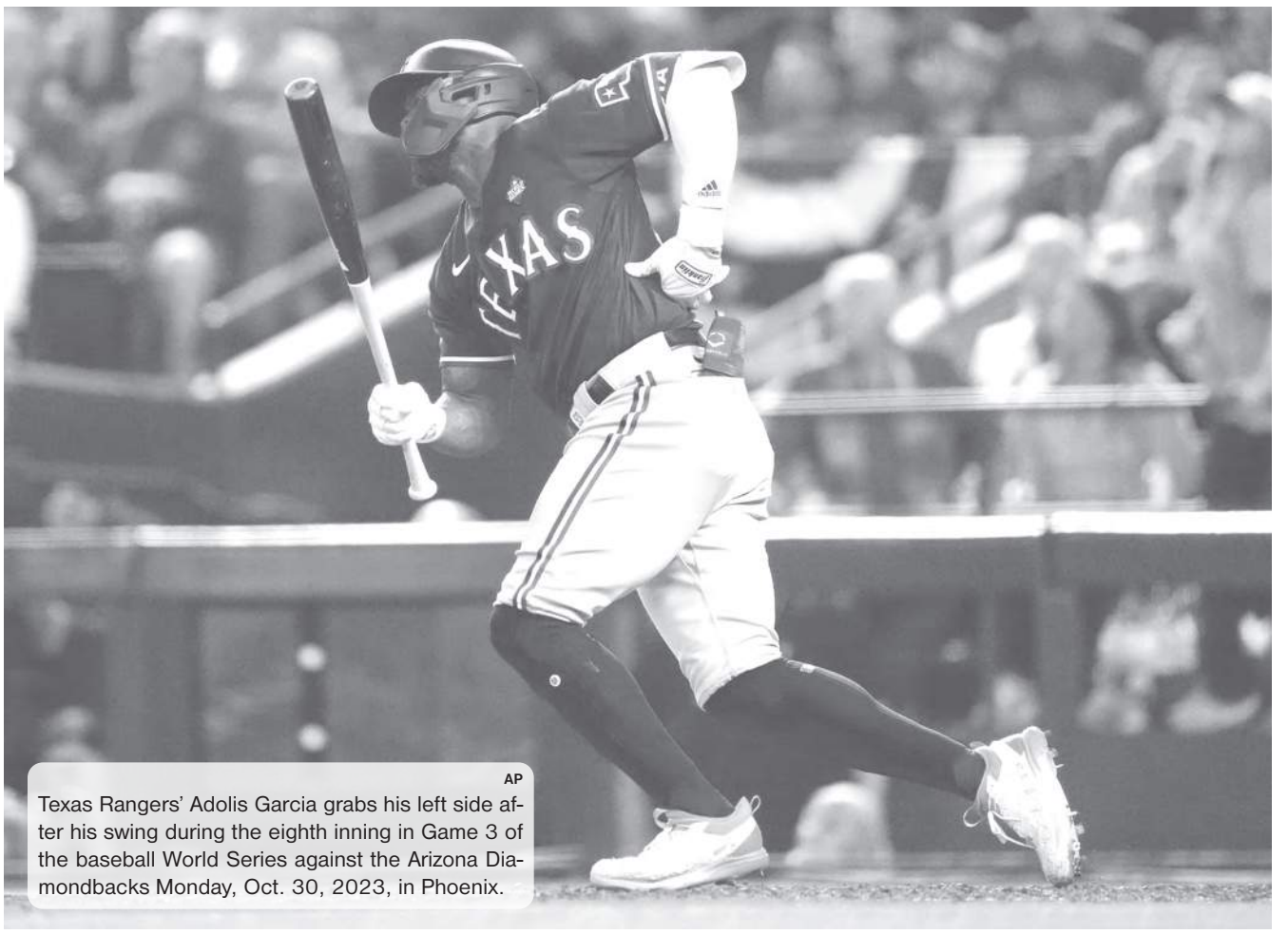
PHOENIX (AP)—The Texas Rangers overcame injuries to Adolis García and Max Scherzer for a 3-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks and a 2-1 World Series lead.

Now, if Texas is going to close out its first championship, it may have to do so without two of its biggest stars.

García, perhaps the hottest hitter in all of baseball this October, left in the eighth inning Monday night after hurting his left side on a swing. He went to a hospital for an MRI.

"We're being optimistic there but we'll know more tomorrow," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said.

The AL Championship Series MVP is hitting a team-high .323 in the postseason with eight homers and a major league-record 22 RBIs, one more than David Freese had for the 2011 St. Louis Cardinals. García is 3 for 10 in the World Series with two RBIs, including an 11th-inning home run off Miguel Castro that gave Texas a 6-5 win in Friday's opener.



AP

Texas Rangers' Adolis Garcia grabs his left side after his swing during the eighth inning in Game 3 of the baseball World Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, in Phoenix.

Scherzer left his Game 3 outing after three innings because of back tightness.

"I'm in full spasm," he said. "It's locked up pretty good. I've had

spasms before. The way this kind of goes, tomorrow will be sore, then it's the second day—the second day will let you know where this is at."

The 39-year-old Scherzer could be in line to pitch Saturday's Game 7 on regular rest.

Game 4 is Tuesday night in Phoenix. The Diamondbacks will piece things together on the mound with multiple relievers, starting with lefty Joe Mantiply. The Rangers will counter with lefty Andrew Heaney.

The Rangers are favorites to win the World Series at -310 odds, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

Christian Walker says he never saw third base coach Tony Perezchica's stop sign in the second inning of Game 3, resulting in a costly out at home plate.

"The last time I saw him, he was waving and I never saw the stop sign," Walker said. "Just probably trying to do too much and should have been more aware."

Walker got a late break as he waited to see if Tommy Pham's liner would drop in right field. Wanting to make up ground, he took a last look at Perezchica and put his head down, hoping to make up time with a tight turn around third base.

Perezchica changed his mind and put up a stop sign. Walker never saw it, and Adolis García nailed him with a perfect, 96.4 mph throw.

"Was it a pivotal moment in the game? Absolutely," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. "We talk about making statements and I'm not going to lie, it hurt a little bit."

Texas' extra-inning comeback victory over Arizona on Friday night was the least-watched Game 1 recorded in World Series TV history.

The Rangers' 6-5 win over the Diamondbacks in 11 innings averaged 9.35 million viewers on Fox, Fox Deportes and Fox's streaming service. The previous low was 9.48 for the opening game in 2020 between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay Rays. That was played during the pandemic, coincidentally in Arlington, Texas.

According to Nielsen, Fox averaged 9.17 million for the game telecast. It is only the sixth World Series game that didn't attract at least 10 million viewers. The others were the first four games in 2020 and Game 3 in 2008 between Tampa Bay and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Average viewer ratings have been calculated since at least 1969.

Ketel Marte has the longest hitting streak in postseason history at 19 games.

The Diamondbacks second baseman walked in his first plate appearance in Game 3 and flied out to left in his second, but he followed with a line-drive single in the sixth that deflected off the glove of second baseman Marcus Semien and went into right-center field.

Marte broke the postseason record with a two-run single in Saturday's Game 2, pushing his streak to 18 games. His two-out hit was part of a three-run eighth, sending him past Derek Jeter and Hank Bauer of the New York Yankees and Boston's Manny Ramirez for the longest streak.

Rangers manager Bruce Bochy is trying for his fourth World Series title after winning with San Francisco in 2010, 2012 and 2014. Four championships would tie Walter Alston and Joe Torre for fourth-most behind Joe McCarthy and Casey Stengel (seven each) and Connie Mack (five).

Bochy is tied at three with John McGraw, Miler Huggins, Sparky Anderson and Tony La Russa.

Every other manager with three or more is in the Hall of Fame.

Scherzer forced from World Series Game 3 by back tightness

PHOENIX (AP)—Max Scherzer shook off catcher Jonah Heim twice and threw a 1-2 slider that struck out Evan Longoria in the third inning of World Series Game 3.

"Something was there," the three-time Cy Young Award winner said.

Back in the World Series, the 39-year-old Texas right-hander felt a muscle spasm on the right side of his back. His outing would soon be over, and perhaps his postseason, too.

Scherzer was forced from his start after three innings with Texas ahead by three runs. Jon Gray emerged from the bullpen and followed with three scoreless innings for the win, helping lift the Rangers over Arizona 3-1 on Monday night for a 2-1 World Series lead.

"I'm in full spasm. It's locked up pretty good," Scherzer said. "I've had spasms before. The way this kind of goes, tomorrow will be sore, then it's the second day—the second day will let you know where this is at."

After striking out Longoria, Scherzer retired Geraldo Perdomo on a flyout. The spasm felt even tighter as he walked Corbin Carroll on five pitches. Scherzer retired Ketel Marte and went to the clubhouse for treatment.

"That's when it locked up," Scherzer said.

Scherzer tried to throw two warmups in the fourth but grimaced. Rangers manager Bruce Bochy and head athletic trainer Matt Lucero headed to the mound.

"I was finally going to catch some rhythm and finally get deep into a ballgame," Scherzer said. "And here we are with another little ailment. It's as frustrating as heck, but that's the hand I'm dealt, so I got to deal with it and find a way around it."

Scherzer allowed two hits in three innings with two walks and one strikeout, throwing 21 of 36 pitches for strikes. He was hit on his right elbow by a 92.6 mph comebacker off Alek Thomas' bat in the second inning. The ball ricocheted to third baseman Josh Jung, who threw to first for the out.

Scherzer's elbow was fine. The back left him in considerable pain.

"I got to see how bad this is and if the drugs can work," he said.

Scherzer would be in line to start a potential Game 7 on Saturday on four days of rest. Asked whether he was taking a muscle relaxant or something stronger, Scherzer responded: "All of the above."

Acquired from the New York Mets on July 30, Scherzer strained a muscle in his right shoulder on Sept. 12 and returned to make two starts in the AL Championship Series against Houston, going 0-1 with a 9.45 ERA. Scherzer allowed five runs over four innings and took the loss in Game 3, and then gave up two runs in 2 2/3 innings in a no-decision in Game 7.

He was pitching Monday with a cut on his right thumb covered with cotton and Super Glue, what he termed Sunday as "a little arts and crafts in the training room."

Scherzer is 1-0 with a 3.72 ERA in four World Series starts, getting a no-decision for Detroit against San Francisco in 2012's Game 4, winning the 2019 opener for Washington at Houston and getting a no-decision in the Game 7 win after getting scratched from a Game 5 start because of an irritated nerve near his neck.

"I was able to snap out of that in 72 hours, so there's history here that these spasms can go away and go away quick," he said.

Gray, a 31-year-old right-hander, was a starter during the regular season. He heard the bullpen phone ring at the end of the second inning, after the comebacker.

"I kind of peeked over a little bit and tried to find out what the deal is," Gray said.

Bullpen coach Brett Hayes told Gray to stay loose in case Scherzer needed to come out.

Gray said it wasn't long after when Hayes got word of Bochy's intention and told Gray: "Go ahead. He's going to go out there and get Max and you'll have it."

Gray said he got off 10 warmups. He retired his first eight batters, allowed Marte's single and retired Gabriel Moreno on a flyout.

Gray was pitching a postseason game at Chase Field for the first time since his postseason debut, when he allowed four runs over 1 1/3 innings as Colorado lost the 2017 NL wild-card game 11-8.

Diamondbacks' Marte extends postseason-record hitting streak to 19 games

PHOENIX (AP)—Ketel Marte extended his postseason-record hitting streak to 19 games with a lined single in the sixth inning off Jon Gray in Game 3 of the World Series on Monday night.

The Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman walked in his first plate appearance and flied out to left in his second, but he followed with a line drive in the sixth that deflected off the glove of Texas Rangers second baseman Marcus Semien and into right-center field.

The Rangers won 3-1 to take a 2-1 lead in the World Series.

Marte broke the postseason record with a two-run single in Saturday's Game 2, pushing his streak to 18 games. His two-out hit was part of a three-run eighth, sending him past Derek Jeter and Hank Bauer of the New York Yankees and Boston's Manny Ramirez for the longest streak.

Jeter's run came in 1998-99, while Bauer's was in the World Series from 1956-58. Ramirez had his streak in 2003-04.

Marte's streak started with a three-hit game in an 11-8 wild-card win over Colorado in 2017, then with three more when the Diamondbacks were swept in the Division Series by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The 30-year-old—who has spent all but two of his nine seasons with Arizona—didn't get another postseason shot until this season. The streak resumed with a 1-for-5 showing in the Wild Card Series opener for the National League's sixth seed against Milwaukee and hasn't stopped.

Curry scores 42 as Warriors win big over Pelicans to remain unbeaten on road

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 42 points in 30 minutes, and the Golden State Warriors remained unbeaten on the road with a 130-102 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Monday night.

Chris Paul added 13 points off the bench, leading the Warriors on a 13-1 run at the end of the third quarter that gave them a 98-78 lead.

Zion Williamson helped New Orleans keep it close in the first half, but got into foul trouble in the third quarter and finished with 19 points. The Pelicans suffered their first loss of the season.

Curry opened with 11 points in the first 4:02, including a pair of 25-foot 3s. He hit seven 3s on 13 attempts, shot 15 of 22 overall and 5 of 7 on free throws.

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives to the basket against New Orleans Pelicans guard Dyson Daniels in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Monday, Oct. 30, 2023.

NUGGETS 110, JAZZ 102

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic had 27 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season, Jamal Murray added 18 points and 14 assists, and Denver beat Utah.

Jokic is tied with LeBron James and Jason Kidd with 107 career triple-doubles.

Aaron Gordon scored 21 points, most on thunderous dunks, as Denver extended its season-opening winning streak to four games. It is the Nuggets' first 4-0 start since 2018 and the sixth in franchise history.

Lauri Markkanen had 27 points and 14 rebounds, Walker Kessler added 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Talen Horton-Tucker scored 16 points for Utah.

MAVERICKS 125, GRIZZLIES 110

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Luka Doncic had 35 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists, and undefeated Dallas beat winless Memphis.

It was the 58th career triple-double for Doncic. Derrick Jones Jr. scored 21 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 and Grant Williams finished with 15 for the Mavericks (3-0).

The Grizzlies have lost their first four games for the first time since 2004.

Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 30 points apiece. Jackson had nine rebounds. Marcus Smart scored 23 points before fouling out.

BUCKS 122, HEAT 114

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Damian Lillard added 25 and Milwaukee built a 25-point lead before holding off Miami.

Tyler Herro scored 35 points for the Heat. Miami was playing without two-time All-Star center Bam Adebayo, who bruised his hip Saturday in a loss at Minnesota.

The Heat stunned the top-seeded Bucks in a first-round playoff series last season, rallying late to win Game 4 and the clinching Game 5. This time, Miami trailed 103-78 early in the fourth quarter and got within six points with 1:22 left. Antetokounmpo converted a three-point play to help ice the game.

TRAIL BLAZERS 99, RAPTORS 91

TORONTO (AP)—Deandre Ayton had a career-high 23 rebounds, Jerami Grant scored 22 points, and Portland beat Toronto for its first win of the season.

Malcolm Brogdon scored 21 points, including a driving basket with 25 seconds remaining, and Canadian-born Shaedon Sharpe scored 14 points for Portland (1-3). Ayton contributed 10 points.

Rookie Scoot Henderson scored 11 points for Portland, which snapped a two-game skid against Toronto.

Scottie Barnes had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Pascal Siakam also scored 20 points, and Jakob Poeltl had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, which lost its third straight. The Raptors shot a season-worst 4 for 29 from 3-point range.

HAWKS 127, TIMBERWOLVES 113

ATLANTA (AP)—Dejounte Murray matched his career high with 41 points and Atlanta bounced back from a 19-point halftime deficit to beat Minnesota.

Murray scored 22 points in the third quarter, wiping out Minnesota's 79-60 lead at the break.

Trae Young added 24 points for the Hawks, who followed up a 17-point win at Milwaukee the previous night to get back to .500.

Anthony Edwards, returning to his hometown, led the Timberwolves with 31 points.

THUNDER 124, PISTONS 112

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 32 points and Oklahoma City beat Detroit.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 11 of 23 field goals and had nine rebounds. Josh Giddey scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half and Jalen Williams added 19 points for Oklahoma City (3-1), which won at home for the first time this season.

Jaden Ivey scored 20 points off the bench for Detroit. Cade Cunningham scored 17 points on 5-for-15 shooting, and rookie Ausar Thompson had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons.

NETS 133, HORNETS 121

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Cam Thomas scored 33 points, and Brooklyn built a 21-point first-quarter lead and held on to beat Charlotte.

Mikal Bridges had 24 points and Lonnie Walker IV and Dorian Finney-Smith each had added 19 for the Nets, who got their first win of the season. Brooklyn shot 56.3% from the field and scored 42 points in the first period.

Terry Rozier had 23 points and rookie Brandon Miller added a career-high 22 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets. Miller, the No. 2 pick in the draft, is averaging 17.3 points in his first three games.

CELTICS 126, WIZARDS 107

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jaylen Brown scored 36 points and Jayson Tatum had 33 as Boston beat Washington to begin the season 3-0.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 15 points in his return to Washington, where he spent his previous 1 1/2 seasons.

Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points for the Wizards (1-2), who trailed throughout and were behind by 26 points after 10 minutes.

BULLS 112, PACERS 105

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Nikola Vucevic scored nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, and Chicago rallied past Indiana.

Zach LaVine had 23 points for the Bulls. DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points and put Chicago ahead to stay on a layup that made it 101-99 with 3:46 remaining.

Myles Turner led the Pacers with 20 points. Tyrese Haliburton had 19 points and 13 assists, and Bennedict Mathurin and Bruce Brown each scored 15 points.

Next NBA media rights deal already subject of speculation before negotiations even start

By JOE REEDY
AP SPORTS WRITER

The NBA will have its own version of March Madness this season.

It won't take place on the court or feature a matchup between LeBron James and Joel Embiid. Instead, it will set the framework for how fans will be able to watch their favorite teams and players in future seasons.

"There's certain structural changes we want to make in sort of how our television relationship works, but at the same time, we're not quite sure how it's going to look," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said after a Board of Governors meeting earlier this year. "You're clearly seeing an evolution or a morphing of media moving continually to streaming services. ... Obviously other entrants in the market would potentially be interested."

The league's 45-day negotiation period with the incumbents, ESPN/ABC and TNT, for the next media rights deal formally begins March 9. Both sides have had conversations about renewing their deals, but not nearly at the same level as 2014, when ESPN and ABC approached the NBA two years early about renewing.

The league's nine-year agreement, which runs through the 2024-25 season, brings in an average of $2.67 billion per season, making it the world's second-richest deal for domestic rights. That is nearly triple the $930 million per year from the previous eight-year contract.

ESPN and Turner ponied up large amounts of money to make sure its competitors didn't have a chance to grab a piece of the market. With streaming services already part of baseball, NFL and NHL deals and long-term questions about the viability of ESPN and Turner in a shifting media marketplace, there will be the addition of at least one more outlet in a future deal.

"There are several potential candidates to have a package of NBA content. The question is, what is the number that the NBA is looking for and can they get that price from the others?" said Tag Garson, Wasserman's senior vice president of properties.

ESPN/ABC and Turner air a combined 165 regular-season games. Warner Brothers Discovery, which owns Turner Sports, also runs NBA TV, which airs 106 games.

It would not be surprising to see ESPN and Turner reduce their regular-season inventory, as long as they both had priority during the playoffs.

Burke Magnus, ESPN's president of content, has said in multiple interviews that maintaining the NBA Finals remains a priority.

The NBA also remains appointment viewing. The six games on ESPN and Turner from Tuesday through Thursday averaged 2.57 million viewers, up 13% over last season and the most-viewed opening week in the six years that the season opened on schedule.

ESPN's Wednesday night doubleheader, which included Victor Wembanyama's debut with the San Antonio Spurs, averaged 2.76 million viewers, the network's second-most watched opening night in 20 years.

Getting a better gauge of ESPN's financial outlook will be easier beginning next month, when its earnings will be broken out quarterly as part of Walt Disney Company's reorganization. In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing from last week, ESPN had revenues of $13.2 billion and a $1.5 billion profit through the first nine months of the 2023 fiscal year.

ESPN has also discussed adding strategic partners, which could include sports leagues, as it prepares to launch a direct-to-consumer product by 2025.

The future of Turner also remains an unknown. In the past nine years, it has been part of Time Warner, AT&T, WarnerMedia and now Warner Brothers Discovery.

The NBA will have a streaming company involved in its next deal, with plenty of suitors interested. Amazon would like to create a package similar to "Thursday Night Football," but Peacock also has interest as a way for NBC to get back in with the NBA. NBC aired games from 1990 through 2002 and John Tesh's "Roundball Rock" theme song remains one of basketball's unofficial anthems.

Whether a Peacock deal would also include games on NBC and/or USA Network is also a question.

Apple also expressed interest since the league's global rights also expire at the same time. Apple's deal with Major League Baseball involves multiple countries and it has a worldwide agreement with Major League Soccer.

All set for Rota Marathon on Jan. 13, 2024

Highlighting one of the most picturesque islands of the archipelago, the Marianas Visitors Authority will inaugurate the Rota Marathon on Jan. 13, 2024, in the Marianas, featuring a full marathon, half-marathon and 5K courses.

The MVA is bringing its long-standing experience and expertise organizing Saipan Marathon, Tagaman Triathlon, and other international sporting events to provide runners a seamless and memorable race in the captivating and quaint island of Rota.

JUNJI TAKASAGO

Rota Marathon 2024 will traverse the scenic roadways of Rota on Jan. 13, 2024. The race, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, will feature full marathon, half marathon, and 5K courses.

"Among those that are already familiar with the island, Rota is known by several charming colloquialisms: The Friendly Island, Rota is Beautiful, Rota is Romantic, Rota is Delicious. And it's all true. Rota is a gem!" said MVA acting managing director Martin Duenas. "We're extremely pleased to announce the first-ever Rota Marathon as the kickoff of the Marianas Visitors Authority's 2024 calendar of events. We are sending out the call near and far for runners of all levels to experience a great race and the charms of Rota with us."

The race falls on the weekend of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday. Cash prizes will be awarded to the overall Top 3 finishers, male and female. In the full marathon, prizes are $500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $200 for third place. In the half-marathon, prizes are $400 for first place, $200 for second place, and $100 for third place. In the 5K, prizes are $300 for first place, $200 for second place, and $100 for third place.

Early bird registration rates through Nov. 30, 2023, are $30 for the full and half-marathon courses and $10 for the 5K. Beginning Dec. 1, 2023, registration rates will be $40 for the full marathon and $20 for the 5K. Full marathon participants must be 18 years of age or older. Registration forms are available on the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarians.com/the-marianas-calendar and may be submitted in-person or via email to the MVA offices on Saipan or Rota.

The last day to register is Jan. 12, 2024. Mandatory race packet pickup will be on Jan. 12 from 5pm to 6pm at Rota Round House in Songsong village. On Jan. 13, the full marathon and half- marathon will begin at 4am, and the 5K will begin at 6am.

The road race will begin at Rota Round House and traverse scenic and historic sites on the island. Registration includes a Limited Edition Official Rota Marathon T-shirt, Rota Marathon medal, and one entry to the awards banquet to be held at 6pm on race day. Registration may be submitted in person at the MVA office on Saipan at 3366 Beach Road, Suite 101, Garapan or at the MVA field office in Songsong, Rota.

"In partnership with the Rota Mayor's Office and the people of Rota, we're looking forward to a great race weekend in January 2024," said Duenas. "We invite runners to join us in planting the first seeds of a Rota Marathon family that will hopefully become an annual part of the community for years to come."

Rota is 30 minutes from the capital island of Saipan via light aircraft.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3200 or MVA Rota Field Operations supervisor Dave Atalig at datalig@mymarianas.com or 532-0327, or visit www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

3

From page 20

In the ES boys division, silver went to Tinian Elementary School with 37 points; and bronze was San Vicente Elementary School with 44. Silver in the ES girls was Brilliant Star School with 43; and bronze was Mount Carmel School with 65.

SIS earned a silver medal in the MS boys division with 58 points; and bronze went to HMS with 61. SIS earned a second silver medal as they placed second in the HS girls division with 22 points; bronze went to MHS with 43.

Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS coach and headmaster as well as organizer of the event, said that as a coach, he is "incredibly impressed with the perfect score our MS Girls team got. It is very rare for a team to be able to achieve a perfect score. Out of the Top 8 finishers, SIS had one, two, three, four, five, and eight. What is even more exciting for me is that all but only one of these runners is an eighth grader. This is a team to watch in 2024 and beyond."

When asked about the performance of the teams this year, he said, "ACS continues to have a strong cross country team. This has not changed. What has changed is that several other teams are also developing some real strengths."

He added, "At SIS, we have become known as a distance running school and our girls have really shined. From Isabel [Dickinson], to Tania [Tan], to Anika [Snyder], to Tiana [Cabrera], to Kaithlyn [Chavez], we have held the top spot for eight years and the current MS champion is coming up to join Kaithlyn next year. MHS has the benefit of having a lot of strong athletes from other schools join them. But, beyond that, Pony Tang has been incredible in implementing an amazing running club that has drawn in numerous athletes. He deserves a big round of applause for a role that transcends student athletes and I am sure he will be missed by his team when he graduates."

Gabi Race, coach for MHS' cross country team, said this about her team, "We had a talented group of runners this year and they did very well in the finals. Most of our top runners are very disciplined and trained on their own in addition to the MHS practices to improve their times and performance for the finals."

She added, "We were also thankful to the organizers for allowing us a JV team where less experienced runners can develop so that we'll continue to grow the cross country program at MHS."

Pastor Kok H. Pang of ACS said that the school had another great cross country season. "This year we claimed two golds (in HS Girls and MS Boys) and two silvers in HS Boys and MS Girls). I am particularly proud to have individual gold and silver medals for MS boys in Raffy Cai and Daniel Yang. Mary Zhu got us another individual bronze in HS Girls," he said.

He added, "ACS trains our new students to go from walkers to become runners of all ages. We are a small private school with very few students to choose from. We do not have good runners from other schools being offered scholarships to run for us."

As for the competition, he said "The standard of HS Boys is very high this year. There are new and younger boys who are running very well this year. Congratulations to MHS for winning the HS boys championship this year. This bodes well for the CNMI cross country and athletics as a whole in the coming years."

"On behalf of ACS, I would like to thank the PSS athletics program, [Northern Marianas Athletics], Run Saipan and [Kagman High School], for their dedication in organizing the qualifying rounds and the championship. I would also want to thank Saipan Vegas Resort for their gracious service to allow their golf course to be used for practice and the championship all these years," said Pang.

As for his thoughts as an organizer, Snyder said that in over his eight years involved in cross country in the CNMI, he's constantly amazed with the growth of the sport and quality of the athletes. He said now, the courses have the look and feel of stateside courses and have developed their network to include races in the north, south, east, and west side of Saipan.

"Five years ago, we only had a handful of athletes who could break 20 minutes in a 5K. We now have a pack of runners that can do this. Our elementary and middle school programs are also growing incredibly," he added.

Results of the individual awards will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School's elementary school division cross country team poses for a photo at the starting line with their coach during the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School's middle school division cross country team poses for a photo at the starting line during the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday.

SHSS

From page 20

won over MHS JV, 15-1.

In the standings as of Oct. 30, KHS varsity and JV teams lead with four wins each; SSHS and MHS varsity are both 1-2; MCS have yet to win with three losses; SSHS JV is at 0-1; MHS JV is at 0-2.

The next games are on Saturday, Nov. 4, and Monday, Nov. 6, at Dan Dan Softball Field; then it will move to the Capital Hill Softball Field on Saturday, Nov. 17, Nov. 18, and the championship rounds on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2.

LEIGH GASES

A teammate congratulates Saipan Southern High School's Derenz Castro, who scored the winning run to steal the game away from Marianas High School, 5-4, in extra innings of the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024 at the Dan Dan Softball Field last Saturday morning.

FRANCO

From page 20

gross was par for the course as he literally shot a 1-under 71 in the round after going 36 in the first nine holes and 35 in the back nine.

"My tee shots were not connecting in the first couple of holes. At the first hole, I topped my drive, hit a solid second shot, put my third shot 12 feet from the hole and birdied No. 5 in the west course which is a par 5. The first nine holes my putter was really working perfectly but my tee shots weren't. On the back nine, my tee shots were solid but my recovery shots and putting switched off. Overall, if I saved all my pars, I would've shot 66 but ended up with six birdies and five bogeys," he said.

Understandably, Santos said all the par 5s of the west course were his best of the day as he birdied them all, while the worst hole was hole No. 3, "because I missed the green and didn't get up and down for par."

Santos then dedicated his victory in the Laolao Invitational to his loving family—his wife Leslie and children Cole and Mary Elen.

"Thank you for allowing me to take the time to put in the time to practice and to become the best on Saipan."

He won 10 free rounds of golf from his former employer.

Also winning the same prize was Justin Mizutani for carding the lowest net score, followed by Yuko Togawa (seven golf coupons), Young-Tae Kim (five golf coupons), Jun Park (three golf coupons), and Ri-Cheng Xian (one golf coupon).

In the most accurate drive, Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Dennis Seo were without peer, while closest to the pin were Palik Thompson (hole No. 3), Xiong-Zhe Li (hole No. 7), Darion Jones (hole No. 13), and Laolao Bay general manager Ronnie Yeom ((hole No. 17).

Manibusan and Seo were gifted with three cases of Calsberg Beer each, while Thompson got a free roundtrip ticket to South Korea courtesy of Jeju Air, while Li and Jones got two golf coupons each. Yeom graciously re-raffled his free roundtrip ticket to South Korea prize courtesy of T'Way Air which Mizutani luckily won. Mizutani a couple of months back won a brand-new car during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament.

Vicente "Ben" Babauta then won a special prize for finishing 29th place—same as the anniversary of Laolao Bay—and brought home a roundtrip ticket to South Korea courtesy of Jeju Air.

Laolao Bay HR manager Redie Dela Cruz then thanked Pacific Wines & Spirits, Mar-Pac, Saipan Ice & Water Co., Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way Air for helping sponsor the Invitational.

Rangers lead D-backs 2-1, but may miss injured García, Scherzer.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

All set for Rota Marathon on Jan. 13, 2024.

PAGE 19

2023 CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

3 gold for SIS, 2 for ACS, 1 for MHS

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Private and public school runners put on their best running shoes and braved the early cross country course for an exciting and competitive PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club on a sports-filled Saturday.

LEIGH GASES
Middle school division runners race out of the starting line during the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club on a sports-filled Saturday.

At the end of the morning, team scores weren't tallied completely as PSS had a host of other sports going on that day. The championship results came out yesterday with cross country teams from Saipan International School, Agape Christian School, and Marianas High School coming out on top of their respective divisions.

Cross country is like golf in that the lowest score wins—with the Geckos perfecting the middle school girls category with 10 points and dethroning ACS. The Geckos' two other gold medals were from a sweep of the elementary school divisions as they continue to hold supremacy in that division. The Gecko boys garnered 33 points while the Gecko girls grabbed 14.

The Torchbearers won gold in the middle school boys division just as last year with 18 points, while the high school girls retained their first-place finish with 16 points.

MHS dethroned ACS in the boys high school division with a score of 18 for the gold medal. Silver went to ACS with 25 points; and bronze was Tinian High School with 68 points.

Silver medal in the MS girls was ACS with 45 points; and bronze was Hopwood Middle School with 57 points.

See 3 on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Agape Christian School middle school boys cross country team successfully defended their division after placing first in the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club on a sports-filled Saturday.

SHSS walks off in extras of boys softball

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray's Tristan Sablan walked it off in extra innings to win against Marianas High School Dolphins, 5-4, in the continuation of the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024 at the Dan Dan Softball Field last Saturday morning.

A "ghost runner"—SSHS' Jon Reyes—was set up in second base as per Major League Baseball extra innings rule and Derenz Castro was able to move him up to third with a single.

The next batter, Damian Pangelinan, made the first out, but drove in Reyes for the tying run. Then, Sablan came up and drew a strike, but on the next pitch, fired a hit far enough to drive Castro home for the walk-off, 5-4 win.

The Dolphins had initially been down, 1-2 at the end of the third inning, but tied the game up, 2-2, in the fourth with a run by Franky Hocog. The Manta Rays were not out of it yet as Keahie Omapas scored the third run to take back the lead, 3-2.

But then, MHS' Jake Aguon found a clear opening through SSHS' defense and rounded the bases for an inside-the-park homerun in the seventh inning to make it 3-3 and force extras.

However, only one more run came in for the Dolphins by way of Hocog, to make it 4-3, which gave the Manta Rays a chance as the home team to walk it off in their at-bat.

In other results on Saturday, Kagman High School JV outscored SSHS JV, 14-1; and KHS varsity overpowered Mount Carmel School, 15-1.

On Monday, SSHS lost to Kagman High School, 1-5, and KHS JV

See SHSS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
Saipan Southern High School's Tristan Sablan swings the walk-off hit to win, 5-4, in extra innings against Marianas High School during their game in the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024 at the Dan Dan Softball Field last Saturday morning.

Franco warms up for Honiara by winning Invitational

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

CNMI National Golf Team stud Franco Santos is rounding out to form just in time for the 2023 Honiara Pacific Games as evidenced by him topping the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort Invitational.

The 31-year-old finance manager of Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, Inc. fired a 1-under par 71 to win the low gross category last Saturday at the Kagman golf course.

"It's a very nice win to have. I worked at Laolao for almost nine years and taking advantage of the privileges and benefits made my game how it is today. All the thousands of hours put into to this game is paying off by representing the NMI for multiple Games and winning multiple tournaments throughout the years," he said.

Santos said winning the low

See FRANCO on Page 19

MARK RABAGO
Laolao Bay Golf & Resort Invitational low gross champion Franco Santos is flanked by Laolao Bay Front Office manager Su Jung, left, and Laolao Bay Golf Course operations manager Tony Satur during the awards banquet last Saturday.